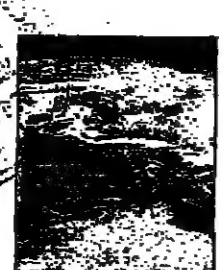




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THE TIMES

No. 64,463 WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14 1992 45p

Heseltine warns of worse to come as 30,000 pit jobs go

■ The relentless decline of the coal mining industry culminated yesterday in huge job losses which have raised the spectre of social unrest according to Michael Heseltine

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND PATRICIA TEHAN

BRITISH Coal's decision to close 31 pits and cut up to 30,000 jobs will be followed by other large-scale job losses. Michael Heseltine admitted yesterday as he delivered the grim assessment yet by a senior minister of the outlook for the economy.

Announcing that he had secured an extra £1 billion from the Treasury this year to meet the cost of the mining redundancies, the president of the Board of Trade joined Lord Prior, chairman of GEC and a former cabinet minister, in accepting that the scale of the recession could trigger social unrest. The recession and the end of the Cold war had combined to produce a "very uncomfortable world" for British industry, Mr Heseltine said.

Referring specifically to shipbuilding, but by implication to other big employers

such as defence and aerospace, he said: "A whole range of industries that helped to defend us in acutely difficult circumstances are now finding that the demand for their products has gone."

He ruled out state subsidies for ailing firms, saying that industry would not be made more competitive by "forcing costs on to them above the market price."

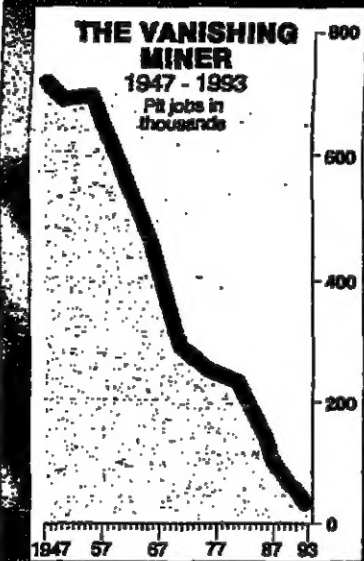
Mr Heseltine was given a rough ride at a press conference in London as he outlined the measures he was taking to help miners and their families to cope with shock and anguish of the closure of 60 per cent of the country's pits. Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, later promised extra resources for retraining redundant miners and Mr Heseltine detailed a range of help for mining communities.

"This is the toughest decision I have ever had to take," he said. "But that does not make it the wrong decision... This is a dreadful thing to have to do, but it's the right thing to do." He added later in a television interview: "I must not allow my heart to rule my head."

The closures will reduce British Coal from 50 to 19 working pits by the end of March. Six pits stop work this week, affecting 6,000 miners. A further 13 will have closed by Christmas. Twenty-seven will have closed by March and a further four will be moth-balled to maintain access to reserves. The cuts include 25,000 miners and 5,000 managers and office staff. They will reduce British Coal's workforce from 53,000 to 23,000.

The need to reduce output by a minimum of 25 million tonnes a year will mean the end of deep mining in Lancashire, north Staffordshire, North Wales and north Derbyshire. There will be just one pit in each of the South Wales, Scotland, Warwickshire, south Staffordshire and North East areas.

Neil Clarke, chairman of British Coal, said: "The bear-squeeze on the demand for coal - not just our coal - has been stark reward for the efforts which everyone in British Coal has injected in recent years, efforts which have seen



The vanishing face of mining: in 1947, the year of nationalisation, there were 718,000 pit workers in Britain; next year there will be 16,000

Abbey National cuts home loan rate

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

ABBEY National, the second largest mortgage lender, has cut its mortgage rate by a further 0.35 percentage points. Its new base mortgage rate will be 9.6 per cent from December for existing borrowers and immediately for new borrowers. This is the lowest rate since 1978.

The former building society is, however, delaying for a month implementation of its 0.75 per cent mortgage cut planned from November 1. The reduction in December will be £39 on a £50,000 endowment mortgage instead of the £26 cut expected next month.

The Abbey says that the cut is in anticipation of a bank base rate cut. The Halifax, the largest mortgage lender, said it had no plans to change its rate.

Abbey will cut loans over £60,000 by 0.29 percentage points to 9.4 per cent; over £100,000 the rate will be 9.2 per cent.

Full details, page 21
Comment, page 25

Quake survivors count cost of Cairo's greed and panic

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN CAIRO

IN THE filthy wards of Cairo's main Qasr al-Aini Hospital the 330 men, women and children recuperating from Egypt's deadliest earthquake have greater reason to resent their fellow man than the unexpected acts of nature.

While the one-minute tremor measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale certainly caused the destruction of 200 buildings in this city of 12 million, Egyptians yesterday came to the grim conclusion that they were largely responsible for the toll, estimated at anywhere between 400 and 1,000 killed.

"The sad truth is that the vast majority of the people brought here were injured in the panic stampedes which followed the earthquake," said Dr Omar Rashad, a lecturer at the country's largest university teaching hospital, which was still receiving patients yesterday from areas

in rural Egypt close to the tremor's epicentre.

Certainly the feeling of revulsion was evident on the dignified face of Abdel Halim Abu Rabia, 75, a devout Muslim who was preparing for his afternoon prayers when the earthquake shook the mosque and he was trampled by fellow worshippers who abandoned him with a broken leg.

A similar fate awaited Fathi Ibrahim, a furniture polisher in downtown Cairo, who rushed out of his workshop and remembers little else. Later he discovered that the stitches in a deep head wound were caused by a panic-stricken mob which knocked him over and left him for dead.

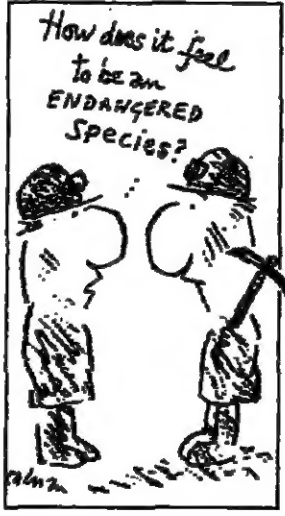
Salma Eld, 10, was more fortunate. She emerged with only cuts and bruises when her lesson in religious studies was interrupted by the quake and she was trampled under

the feet of her fleeing classmates, though the tremor did not cause even a crack in the school walls. Thirty-four children were killed in a similar stampede at Shubra.

Not all casualties can be attributed directly to man's folly, though many probably owe their misfortune as much to building contractors and shrewd landlords as to the quake. Most of Cairo, including the Sphinx at Giza, emerged unscathed, while sub-standard housing for the poor and at least one geriatric 14-storey block of flats collapsed because landlords were too poor or too greedy to care about foundations.

But as Egyptians begin to bury their dead and to count their material losses the full impact of Monday's earthquake on Egyptian society has yet to be felt.

Mubarak returns, page 13



£30m offer shocks ITN

Independent Television News is considering its response to a surprise £30 million takeover bid by a consortium of media companies including Reuters and Carlton Communications, the group set to take over the London weekday franchise from Thames Television. The consortium, which also includes Central Television and LWT, has offered just £400,000, or £1 a share, but will inject £15 million via a subscription for new equity, with the rest of the refinancing "called up as and when ITN's needs require".

Page 21

Revival hopes rest on Quayle

Republicans were looking to President Bush's deputy, Dan Quayle, to revive their election hopes last night in the American vice-presidential candidates' only televised debate.

Mr Quayle had merely to avoid a gaffe to appear successful in his encounter with Senator Al Gore, the Democrat vice-presidential nominee, and the retired admiral James Stockdale, Ross Perot's running mate.

Page 12

Gascoigne back for England

Paul Gascoigne is to start rebuilding his international career at Wembley tonight at the beginning of England's journey towards the World Cup finals in the United States in 1994.

Graham Taylor, the England manager, has seen enough to convince him that Gascoigne, the country's most celebrated and gifted footballer, should be recalled for the opening qualifying tie against Norway.

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Booker Prize is shared

By DANIEL JOHNSON
LITERARY EDITOR

THIS year's £20,000 Booker Prize has been awarded jointly to two novels: Michael Ondaatje's *The English Patient* and Barry Unsworth's *Sacred Hunger*. Only once before, in 1974, was the prize shared, between Nadine Gordimer and Stanley Middleton.

Mr Ondaatje, 48, has lived in Toronto since his childhood but was born in Sri Lanka. Widely recognised as the leading Canadian novelist, he was the bookmakers' favourite. Barry Unsworth, 52, from a miner's family in Durham, is a prolific writer who was shortlisted in 1980 for *Pascali's Island*.

The English Patient is set in an Italian villa in 1945, where the eponymous patient, burnt beyond recognition, is nursed by a Canadian woman, Hana. She is joined by the thief Caravaggio and an intense young Sikh, Kip, who is a bomb disposal expert in the British Army. *Sacred Hunger* is a historical novel, but it transcends its genre by using a mutiny aboard a slave ship in the 1750s as the vehicle for an indictment of the capitalist profit motive.

The judges, chaired by the biographer and Times reviewer Victoria Glendinning, found it impossible to choose only one of the six novels. The other four were *Serendip House* by Christopher Hope; *Daughters of the House* by Michele Roberts; *Black Dogs* by Ian McEwan; and *The Butcher Boy* by Patrick McCabe.

Too close to call, page 16

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NEWS IN BRIEF

IRA admits pub bomb in London

One of the victims of the bomb blast at a central London public house was still in a coma last night at University College Hospital, as the IRA admitted responsibility for the blast and other attacks. Doctors said that David Heffer, 30, from Luton, Bedfordshire, had suffered such extensive brain damage that he may never recover.

Commenting on the attack at the Sussex public house close to Covent Garden, Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, said that Mr Heffer had nothing to do with the IRA's cause and added: "What the IRA are doing in this little burst of bombs is trying to kill and maim people at random to get themselves publicity."

Mr Heffer has been unconscious since he was admitted to the hospital after the explosion on Monday at the pub, where he caught the full force of the blast.

Fishermen rescued

Ten fishermen were hauled to safety in a helicopter rescue yesterday after the fishing boats *Supreme* and *Active* collided in a North Sea gale 70 miles off Norway. The vessels fished out of Peterhead, Grampian, and were captained by brothers, James and James MacPherson. A Norwegian rescue co-ordinator said: "All the crew have been rescued by a Norwegian helicopter and flown to Stavanger. There are no injuries as far as we are aware." The crews were picked up from life-crafts in 12ft waves and the boats, which rescuers believe were working as a pair, later sunk. Four helicopters took part in the rescue, including an RAF Wessex helicopter on route to Norway on a courtesy visit.

Nobel prize winner

Gary Becker, an American professor who developed economic theories on why people marry, divorce, discriminate against each other and commit crimes, won the 1992 Nobel Economics Prize yesterday. The Swedish Academy of Sciences, awarding the Kr6.5 million (£668,750) prize, said the University of Chicago professor had "extended the sphere of economic analysis to new areas of human behaviour and relations". It was the third year running that economics professors from the university had won, after Merton Miller shared the award in 1990 and Ronald Coase, a Briton, won last year. Becker is one of six economists from the university to win the prize since its inauguration in 1969.

Armour stays on show

Peter de Savary has withdrawn Littlecote House, his £6 million Elizabethan mansion in Wiltshire, from the market because of the recession. The news has delighted conservationists who feared for the future of the world's finest collection of civil war armour. The armour housed at Littlecote has been on public display in the past, but a new owner might have closed the house to the public. The house will reopen to the public next Easter. Peter Hammond, the deputy master of the Royal Armouries, which bought the 275 pieces six years ago for £580,000, said: "We are absolutely delighted. This collection of armour really does belong to the house."

Riot trial halted

The trial of 12 Strangeways prisoners on riot charges was halted yesterday when the judge was told that a defence solicitor's clerk had recognised one of the jurors. Judge Sachs agreed to a request from the Crown at Manchester Crown Court that a retrial should be held. The jury had been sitting since Friday hearing the prosecution outline the case against the 12 men, who are accused of taking part in the country's longest prison disturbance, which lasted for 24 days in April 1990.

Pearl finds its price

A 27-year battle over a pearl worth £65,000 was settled yesterday when Cairncross Jewellers of Perth agreed to pay its value to the finder and put it on show in their shop. Bill Abernethy, 65, of Coupar Angus, found the pearl in the Tay in 1965 and said he loaned it to the late James Cairncross as a nest-egg for his future. But Mr Cairncross claimed he had bought it and there was a long legal battle until the shop's new owner, Mrs Flora Rennie, of Dunfermline, decided to settle the issue.

Ministers accused in public spending clash

BY JILL SHERMAN AND NICHOLAS WOOD

THE dispute on public spending intensified yesterday as some ministers were accused of pushing for benefit cuts to embarrass Peter Lilley, the Euro-sceptic social security secretary.

Curbs on the £71 billion-a-year social security budget are understood to be high on the agenda of the cabinet committee chaired by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, which yesterday began three days of meetings this week to thrash out a formula for holding the spending total to the target of £244.5 billion. Ministers on the committee of six, who include leading pro-Europeans such as Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, and Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, are believed to be examining

plans to increase some key benefits by less than the rate of inflation to save hundreds of millions of pounds.

But friends of the social security secretary are becoming increasingly concerned that he will be made the scapegoat for alleged Treasury economic mismanagement. They are worried that ministers opposed to Mr Lilley's Euro-sceptic stance on the Maastricht treaty and returning to the European exchange-rate mechanism will seek to inflict most of the pain on his department. Mr Lilley's supporters suspect that such a move may be made in order to undermine his authority and to weaken his ability to put the Euro-sceptic case in the cabinet.

One leading Tory said:

Attempts to curb social security spending have become a political football between European antagonists

"They are going to do the social security budget. There will be an outcry from the chattering classes and Lilley will be cast in the role of the demon. So Lilley takes all the heat. It cuts government expenditure and much more importantly it slaughters Lilley."

A minister on the right of the party said: "He has got the biggest budget so he will have to provide the lion's share of any savings. I am certain that the other departments will present it as Lilley rolled over because they have other fish to fry on the European front."

The special cabinet committee yesterday tussled over dif-

ferent options to cut public spending but ministers are still divided about where the knife should fall. Transport, defence and environment are likely to suffer cuts in capital spending but social security may bear the revenue brunt of the prolonged recession.

At least two more meetings will be held next week before the committee draws up a programme to go to the full cabinet by the end of this month or early next month. However, ministers who are not on the public spending committee are now so perturbed about the impact of spending decisions that they may call for an interim cabinet

meeting to assess progress. Benefits which are most at risk are those not tied to uprating pledges, such as family credit, housing benefit, income support and one parent benefit.

The government would be able to freeze these benefits or raise them by less than inflation without having to introduce emergency legislation which might not get through the Commons. While any move to cut help to those on low incomes is likely to create a political outcry, ministers say that if they are to be tough on public sector pay they can be equally tough on benefits. If pay rises are frozen or restrained to two or three per cent then benefits could be similarly curtailed, they say.

Higher than expected unemployment levels will push this year's £71 billion social security bill to well over the £76 billion set in public spending plans for next year. Officials predict that the overspend on unemployment and related benefits could be between £3 and £4 billion, part of which will have to be recouped from within the department. Moves to combat fraud and tighten up on eligibility for some benefits such as invalidity benefit and unemployment benefit are expected to make savings in the long term.

Ministers are also exploring changes in retirement pensions to target them to poorer groups. However, all three benefits are subject to statutory uprating every year. Child benefit does not have to be uprated by law but the Conservative manifesto commits the government to protecting the universal benefit from price rises.

New body-blow to an industry facing drastic undercutting from abroad

Cheap supplies pose threat to UK market

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

THE flood of cheap imported coal into British markets is one of the main threats to a viable domestic coal industry.

The two power generators of England and Wales, National Power and PowerGen, were freed from their previous dependence on British Coal when they were privatised last year and their use of imported coal has soared. Both say they want competition to British Coal and imported coal is much cheaper.

Imported coal costs between 100p per gigajoule and 120p compared with the 150p price under negotiation in the new contracts. The power generators buy their coal in pence per

ing four. Imports of steam coal, the type burned by the generators, have risen from four million tonnes in 1989 to ten million tonnes last year. The main sources of coal imports are South Africa, Colombia, Australia and the US, though there is access to cheap supplies from Poland, Indonesia and Venezuela.

Hugh Lee, manager of world coal trade at the energy consultancy WEA Energy, said that those countries use more modern equipment than Britain and because of their land mass are able to use less environmentally-friendly surface mining techniques.

Britain was the world's main exporter of coal for years. In 1900 Britain exported 100 million tons of coal. No other country could match that until 1990, when Australia exported 106 million tonnes. The cheapest coal prices are usually offered by South Africa and Colombia.

In January PowerGen revealed plans to build a £40 million coal terminal at Liverpool docks allowing it to bring in an extra 5 million tonnes of coal imports a year from 1994. National Power and PowerGen were negotiating a coal imports terminal at Immingham in Humberside to handle 10 million tonnes of coal imports a year, but that plan fell through.

National Power is also working on a project to build a docks terminal to handle 5 million tonnes a year in Bristol. The terminal is scheduled to begin operation next year.



End near: Men at Sharston Colliery, due to close



Miners' leader suspects revenge

ONE miners' leader yesterday accused the government of using the colliery closures to settle old scores with the pit workers. (Paul Wilkinson writes.)

Ken Capstick, vice-president of the Yorkshire region of the NUM, where eight pits are to shut with the loss of more than 6,000 jobs, said: "Cecil Parkinson has been on the BBC today reminding people it was the miners who brought the Conservative government down 20 years ago. This is a vindictive government, seeking revenge on its own people."

Delegates from the Yorkshire area will be calling for an all-out strike when the NUM holds an emergency conference tomorrow.

In the North East, the closure of Vane Tempest and Easington on the Durham coast will bring to an end in

the county coal mining which goes back as far as Roman times. The two pits, which employed almost 2,300 men, are the last in a colliery that in 1947, at the time of nationalisation, had 128 mines and 110,000 workers. Both had been under threat of closure because of geological problems.

The death of King Coal in the south Wales valleys has been a wounding, painful and bitter affair (Tim Jones writes). Two of the area's remaining three pits are due to close later this year, leaving just 370 men employed at the Tower colliery near Hirwaun in the Cynon valley.

Although some of the valley towns, like Tredegar, have about them an air of terminal decline, with boarded-up shops and groups of youths and men standing aimlessly about, millions of pounds of public money are being spent in an effort to create jobs and entice investors.

Since Peter Walker, the former Welsh secretary, announced the Valleys Initiative four years ago, thousands of acres of derelict land have been cleared in an exercise costing more than £40 million.

Small factories which have opened on newly created business parks have tended to employ mainly women in low-paid and semi-skilled jobs. There have however been some notable success stories and on the edge of the valleys, mainly along the M4 corridor, the modern high-technology plants of major companies have managed to compensate in part for the devastation of the mining and steel industries.

□ The Parkside Colliery, Newton-le-Willows does before the end of the year the last remains of the Lancashire colliery field will have gone (Ronald Faux writes).

The pit was out of bounds to journalists yesterday and few of the 720 men who will be made redundant were around to talk about the blow many of them had been expecting for months.

The pit is relatively new and its two tall, winding towers dominate a complex which last year produced 870,000 tonnes of coal from its two seams. Roy Jackson, Lancashire NUM secretary who has watched the county's deep mining industry dwindle to nothing, said some of the men at Parkside had worked at four pits in fifteen months as the mines had closed around them. British Coal said Parkside lost a large sum of money last year and this year's figures were not available. If losses continued closure could come even sooner.

How decision to privatise electricity turned industry into a sitting duck

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

MANY miners will look back at March 1991 as the point when the clock was set for the collapse of the coal industry.

John Wakeham, the then energy secretary, had announced the full privatisation of the electricity industry. The newly formed generators, PowerGen and National Power, and the regional companies that had been privatised earlier, were granted the freedom to buy the cheapest fuel available from anywhere in the world.

Dr Kim Howells, Labour MP for Pontypridd and a close independent observer of the industry, said: "At that stage the coal industry was doomed and nothing really could save it."

The government claims that it was unrealistic to expect the power companies to purchase uncompetitively priced coal.

The mining unions argue that the industry was being crushed because foreign coal producers, particularly in South Africa and Colombia, were heavily subsidised by their governments. PowerGen

THE DECLINE

states simply that it was given no option but to reduce its demand for British coal.

"The market for coal-fired generation is being steadily diminished by factors beyond PowerGen's control," Ed Wallis, its chief executive, said yesterday. He added that the electricity industry was being squeezed by nuclear generators subsidised by the government and by independent gas-fired generators, who had struck individual deals with regional electricity companies.

Lord Parkinson, when energy secretary four years ago, described the proposed sale of the coal industry as "the ultimate privatisation", but observers yesterday said that its success was always likely to be vastly diminished coming so long after the electricity privatisation.

The recent lack of co-operation between the coal board and the National Union of Mineworkers is seen as leaving the industry vulnerable to easy destruction. British Coal management was accused yesterday of being "supine" ever since the 1984-5 miners' strike.

Links between management and employees were seen as crucial to the industry's salvation by Lord Gormley, the former president of the NUM, who forged a solid link with the then National Coal

Board to avert pit closures. That victory proved costly, however. Lord Lawson of Blaby, who, as Nigel Lawson became energy minister shortly afterwards, disclosed in his memoirs that he was determined that the government would never again be beaten by trade union militancy.

The bitter personal confrontation between Arthur Scargill and the chairman of the NCB, Ian MacGregor, ensured that there would never again be the management-worker link created by Joe Gormley. "Once Arthur Scargill took over, he set himself up as a sitting duck," said one coal industry analyst yesterday.

Michael Heseltine, the trade and industry secretary, yesterday explained the latest closures as the culmination of a demise stretching back to the first world war.

Heseltine warns of further job losses

Continued from page 1
men to fight, saying that he would urge them to take whatever action necessary to save the industry. He called the closures "a deliberate political act of industrial vandalism perpetrated against an already decimated industrial landscape. Miners have a choice: either to lie down and let this happen or stand up and fight back."

Mr Heseltine hinted that he had had to bargain hard with the Treasury to win the £1 billion redundancy package that provides a maximum

payout of £37,000 for a 57-year-old miner with 41 years of service. A 19-year-old who has worked for three years will receive a maximum of £5,200.

Mr Heseltine defended the closures as a necessary move to bring British Coal's output into line with present and future demand. Keeping open the existing 50 pits would cost £100 million a month in subsidies meant that the average household electricity bill would be 3 p per cent higher than it need be. He appeared downcast as he rejected accusations that he had

"stabbed miners in the back" after many had kept working during the 1984-5 strike.

Earlier Lord Prior, who fought a rearguard action as a cabinet "wet" against Margaret Thatcher's hard-line monetarism in the last recession, said that the Treasury was "very much discredited" and had "failed" industry. He appealed to ministers to direct their efforts to reviving manufacturing. "The danger is that unemployment will get even more unacceptably high and this could then provoke serious social problems," he said

on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*.

Robin Cook, Labour's trade spokesman, urged Mr Heseltine to intervene to stop the closure of the mines in the same way that the German government had intervened to save its mines. He said: "Nobody gains from this vandalism of our energy resources."

Two weeks ago, the German government provided a subsidy of more than £1 billion to preserve the collieries.

Dying embers, page 15
Leading article, page 17

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Mother's objection to caesarean birth overruled by court

An emergency hearing putting the life of an unborn baby above the mother's religious views sets an important precedent

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SURGEONS at a London hospital carried out a life-saving caesarean operation against the patient's wishes after being given the go-ahead at an emergency hearing in the High Court.

The rush to court on Monday, made public yesterday, was in an attempt to save the woman's life and her child's after she had refused a caesarean on religious grounds. The baby died, but the mother survived and is in a serious condition.

Permission was given for the doctors to override the mother's wishes, even though she was competent to decide for herself, on the ground that the baby's life might be saved. It is the first decision of its kind in the English courts.

The life of the woman, 30, a mother of two and a "born-again" Christian, was ebbing

away as the hearing took place. Within a short time of permission being granted by Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court family division, the hospital, in London, was telephoned and surgeons went ahead.

There have been similar decisions in the United States, but this is thought to be the first time that such an order has been made in an English court. The decision follows a ruling by the Court of Appeal last month in which a woman aged 20 was refusing blood transfusions even if this caused her death. The court held that adult patients with no mental incapacity had an absolute right to refuse or consent to medical treatment. However, doctors had a right to give the transfusions, the judges said, on the ground that the woman was under the

influence of her mother, a Jehovah's Witness. The next question, of whether that right persists where another life, that of a child, is at stake, had never until now been tested in the English courts.

The procedure on Monday, at which David Venables, the Official Solicitor, was represented, took less than an hour. The court was contacted at 1.25pm and the hearing started at 1.55. The decision was made by 2.18. Neither the hospital nor the health authority involved can be identified.

Sir Stephen said that the woman, referred to in court as Mrs S, was admitted to hospital last Saturday with labour complications. Her baby's birth had been predicted for October 6.

He said a surgeon had told him that the plight of the woman and her unborn child was desperately serious. "The evidence of the surgeon is that we are concerned with minutes rather than hours and that it is a life and death situation."

Doctors had done their best to persuade the woman that the only means of saving her life, and that of her child, was to carry out a caesarean section. "The surgeon is emphatic. He says it is absolutely the case that the baby cannot be born alive if a caesarean operation is not carried out," Sir Stephen said. "I wholly accept the evidence of the surgeon as to the desperate nature of this situation and I grant the declaration sought."

The woman, supported by her husband, had refused to submit herself to the operation because of her religious beliefs. The exact nature of her objections was not made clear. Phyllis Bowman, national director of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, said later: "We applaud the decision of the court. I cannot think what objections the woman could have raised. We have born-again Christians who are members of our organisation and I know of nothing in the Bible against such an operation."

Law pioneer treads with sensitivity

SIR Stephen Brown, who broke legal ground by allowing doctors to override the wishes of a mother yesterday and to proceed with a life-saving operation, is the most senior family judge in England and Wales.

The head of the High Court family division since 1988, he is widely respected within the legal profession for his intellect and fairness. In manner very much of the old school, he is courteous and tactful, if somewhat reserved, most at ease with fellow judges and lawyers.

Monday's ruling is the latest in a number of cases in which Sir Stephen has made, creating new law in the delicate area where medicine and individual rights may conflict and being careful to hold back the courts from unnecessary intervention. In February last year he held that court approval was not necessary for a therapeutic operation on a mentally handicapped girl under 18 which would leave her sterile.

The parent's consent was the only requirement needed before the hysterectomy could be carried out, he said. Elsewhere in family law Sir Stephen, 68, has taken a lead in promoting the idea that divorce proceedings should be free of bitterness, arguing that cases where parents contest the custody of children should not be turned into "gladiatorial contests".



Sir Stephen: respected in the legal profession

Reports of wife killing case 'unfair'

By Edward Gorman, Ireland correspondent

THE Court of Appeal in Belfast was told yesterday that bias and sensational reporting by the *Daily Mail* and four other tabloid newspapers had misled the public in the case of a woman soldier who killed her army officer lover's wife.

Peter Smith QC, for the attorney-general, said that in reporting the five-year sentence on Susan Christie, a former soldier in the Ulster Defence Regiment, four papers failed to mention psychiatric evidence which would help to explain the sentencing decision. The *Daily Mail* had wrongly described Christie as a murderer when the jury had found her guilty of manslaughter.

Christie, 24, was found guilty of killing Penny McAllister by cutting her throat. She was convicted of manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility. The attorney-general is appealing against the five-year sentence, claiming it was "unduly lenient". The hearing continues today.

BBC chief answers longwave critics

By MELINDA WHITSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC yesterday promised listeners that its proposed 24-hour radio news network, which is to replace Radio 4 on longwave in early 1994, will not be a "service of repetition or speculation" but a vital "guarantor of the national debate".

Tony Hall, director of BBC news and current affairs, yesterday outlined the breadth of coverage listeners can expect from the network and pointed to growing public demand for a station providing instant, reliable news at convenient times.

"Many people want their news when it is convenient for them - when they get in from work, when they've picked up the children from school, when they take a break from their work, or finishing a meeting, when they arrive in a hotel. That is the way of the future," Mr Hall told the Royal Television Society.

Drawing on research conducted during the Gulf war, Mr Hall replied to angry listeners who fear that they will no longer hear favourites such as *The Archers* once Radio 4 switches to FM because of

poor reception in parts of Britain.

The research shows that 85 per cent of Radio 4 listeners either favoured or did not mind the splitting of Radio 4's longwave and FM frequencies to create Gulf FM for the duration of the hostilities. Of the 15 per cent who said it had affected them badly, 7.5 per cent said they found it difficult to pick up their favourite programmes on longwave. Only one per cent had any difficulty receiving the service on FM. Mr Hall said the Gulf news network also brought 1.5 million new listeners to Radio 4.

All the main Radio 4 news programmes - *Today*, *The World At One*, *PM* and *The World Tonight* - will be broadcast on the longwave news station.

From *Our Own Correspondent* will extend its range to home stories, while business coverage will be expanded to three half-hour programmes a day. The number of documentaries will treble, while current programmes running for 20 weeks of the year such as *In Business* will expand their run for the entire year.

Degree of change in university statistics

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE traditional universities today publish their own performance statistics, as controversy continued over the first overall rankings of universities, which appeared in *The Times* this week.

Ewan Page, vice-chancellor of Reading University, who chaired the committee which produced the report, said that he hoped no league tables would be compiled from the results. The vice-chancellors have been among the chief opponents of ranking universities.

This is the sixth year in which the vice-chancellors and the Universities Funding Council have published their own performance indicators. Last year's report was among the main sources of information in *The Times* University Guide.

The report showed university entry becoming more difficult in most arts subjects and easier in most sciences during 1991. Of 21 subject groupings, average A-level requirements of English universities rose in nine and remained level in two others.

Other indicators show research income rising by 152 per cent in six years, from about £12,000 per academic in 1984-5 to more than £30,000 in 1990-91. Average staffing levels have also increased substantially. In all subjects, more than 80 per cent of undergraduates leave with a degree. The average in 86.9 per cent, slightly less than in 1989-90.

The report shows the business schools well ahead of other universities in the amount paid to staff.

University management statistics and performance indicators in the UK (Universities Statistical Record, PO Box 130, Cheltenham, Glos GL50 3SE, £20, plus postage)

Leading article, page 17



High jump: Britain's first jump jet, the P1127, has been moved to the aeronautics gallery at the Science Museum, west London. It was previously exhibited at the RAF Museum in the capital. The plane, built in 1960 and the precursor of the Harrier, was the first to hover under jet thrust and the first to move from hover to forward flight. It will stay at the Science Museum on loan for about 20 years

Court told how Triad gang swore blood oath of loyalty

By PETER VICTOR

DETAILS of how Chinese Triad gangs operate in Britain, with secret initiation ceremonies and blood oaths of allegiance sworn on pain of death, were laid before an Old Bailey jury yesterday.

The court was told how a Hong Kong businessman's plan to take over a Triad crime group ended when he was shot in London's Chinatown. Lam Ying Kit nearly died when he was shot four times at close range as a warning to others who might hope to take over the Shui Fong organisation.

Martin Heslop, for the prosecution, said Lam arrived in London from Hong Kong and "was believed to have been involved in an attempt to take over the leadership of the Shui Fong Triad in the UK".

The prosecution alleges that six men plotted the shooting,

on September 7 last year. Wai Ming Tang, 36, of Astley, Manchester; Shui Cheung Wan, 30, of Holloway, north London; Tak Kam Chow, 40, of Southgate, north London; Chong Chi Chan, 24, of Highfields, near Sheffield; Wai Yuen Liu, 30, of Southampton and Wai Wan Ho, 41, of Maida Vale, north London, deny conspiring to inflict grievous bodily harm on Lam.

Mr Heslop told the court that after the shooting the gunman, Wai Hen Cheung, was arrested and had since pleaded guilty to his part in the crime. He had "lifted the veil of secrecy" surrounding the Triads and would be the central witness in the trial, Mr Heslop said.

Attempts were made by Tang and Wan to silence him, the prosecution alleged. They

visited him in prison under false names "reminding him of his oaths of allegiance and threatening to have him killed if he continued to inform". The two deny attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Cheung, born in Leicester and a London chef before joining Shui Fong, continued to help police and "provide a unique picture in the UK of the secret organisation and activities of these closed Chinese groups," Mr Heslop said. He would tell "how it was almost impossible for him to avoid the menacing reach of the Triads". The jury would hear about initiation ceremonies often held in basements of restaurants where blood was pricked from a finger into glasses of wine "and drunk by those involved in the initiation ceremony. Oaths were sworn on pain of death." The Old

Bailey was told that Cheung had sworn secrecy to Shui Fong during an ancient ritual carried out at 2am at the Princes Chinese Restaurant in Greyhound Road, Fulham, west London, by a man known as The Incense Master. Cheung's blood was pricked from his finger and allowed to drop into a glass of wine which was drunk by fellow members of the secret society.

Mr Heslop said he hoped to call The Incense Master to give evidence in court.

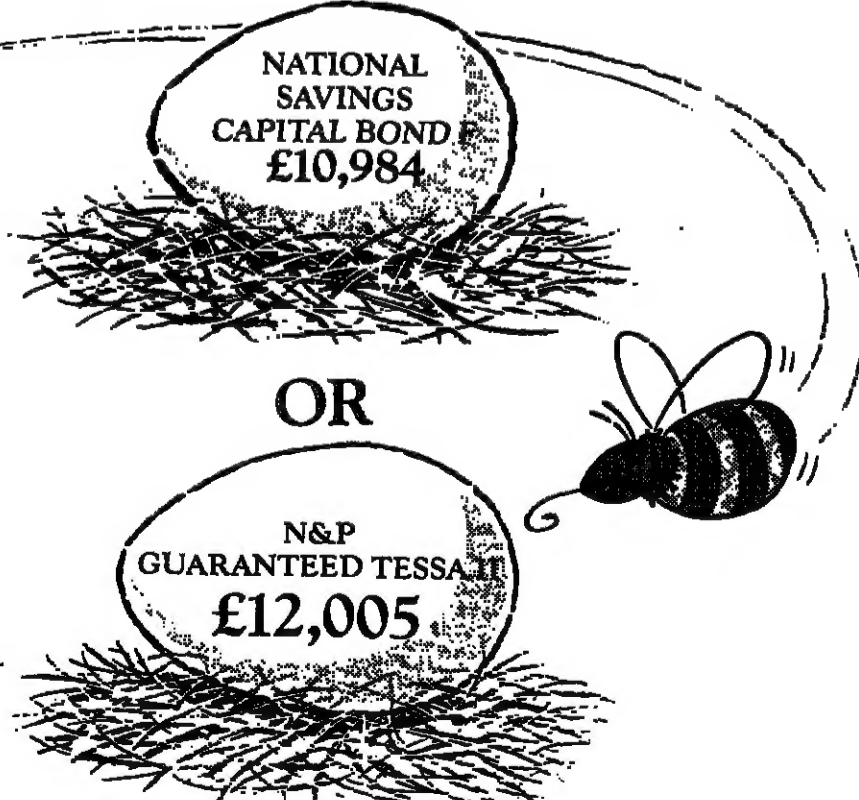
All six defendants were members of Shui Fong, which "had as its principal purpose organised crime", Mr Heslop said. Those activities extended throughout the Chinese community in Britain and included extortion, protection rackets, violence, illegal gambling and drug trafficking. The case continues today.

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Woman lives 36 hours with pig's liver

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN who was kept alive for 36 hours with a transplanted pig's liver died yesterday before a human liver could be found.

British expert said the length of her survival with the animal organ, the first time a pig's liver had been used, was impressive.

Surgeons at the Cedars Sinai medical centre in Los Angeles operated on Susan Fowler, 26, on Sunday night when she was said to be hours from death. The transplanted organ was placed next to the woman's own failed liver in a temporary "bridge" to keep her alive until a human donor became available. A human liver was

found in Utah and flown to California but the woman died on the operating table on Monday night as surgeons were preparing the transplant.

The surgery was the second animal-to-human liver transplant this year. A 35-year-old man received a baboon's liver in June at the University of Pittsburgh medical centre, but that operation was technically simpler because baboons are immunologically closer to humans. The man's hepatitis had made a human organ transplant impossible. He died ten weeks later.

Before that, the last known cross-species trans-

plant was in 1984, when a baby girl received a baboon's heart at Loma Linda University medical centre. The girl, known as Baby Faye, died 20 days later.

A spokesman for Cedars Sinai hospital said that Ms Fowler, who had suffered from liver disease since childhood, had tolerated the initial surgery well and the pig's liver had been functioning. Her condition had improved but she had remained in a coma.

Normally, an organ transplanted from a different species would be rejected within hours as a result of an "enzyme cascade" released in the body by the liver

which "punches holes in cells", according to Dr David White, a specialist in transplantation immunology in the department of surgery at Cambridge University. "A kidney would turn black in 15-20 minutes," he said. "I am surprised the pig's liver supported life as long as it did. It is pretty impressive."

Mount Sinai hospital has been a centre for research into cross-species transplantation for eight years and the pig was a specially bred laboratory animal. Research is under way at Cambridge University to breed genetically engineered pigs whose organs will not be rejected by the human body.

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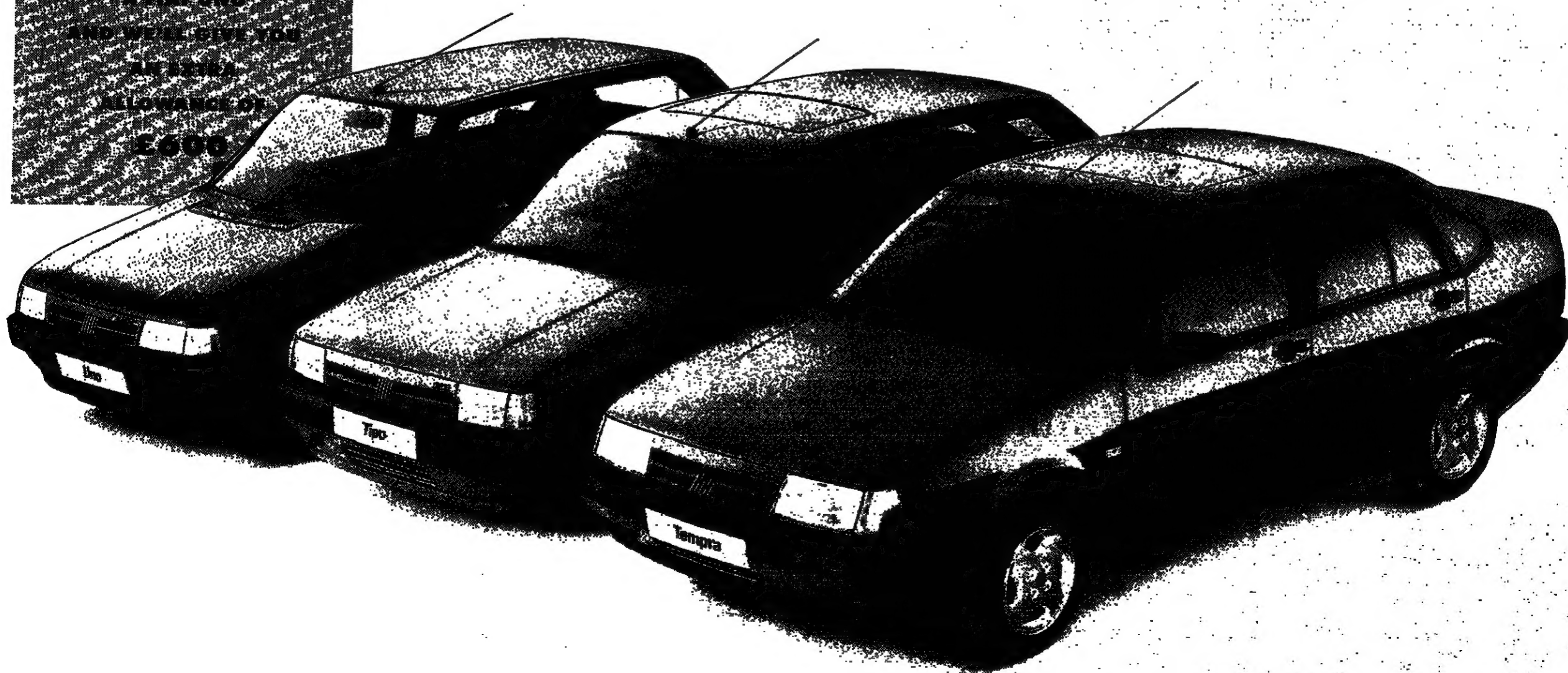
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Times Atlas shows how the world is changing

Cartographers have been hard pressed to keep up with the world's shifting political map

By ALAN HAMILTON

IN THE days of Mercator, maps of the world fell out of date every now and again when people went off and discovered new bits. Now we know more or less where everything is, but the place still stubbornly refuses to lie down and stay put. Not since the end of the first world war has our picture of the planet had to be so comprehensively redrawn.

The *Times Atlas of the World* reappears tomorrow in a new and remarkably contemporary edition, keeping abreast of the massive seismic shocks that have redrawn the boundaries of the world in general, and Europe in particular, since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Readers will search in vain for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, for Leningrad or Sverdlovsk, East Germany or a Yugoslavia stretching from Italy to Albania. Instead they will find the Russian Federation and all the other independent republics that once composed the Soviet Union. They will find Sankt-Peterburg and Yekaterinburg, their pre-Bolshevik names.

There are physical changes to the Earth, too: the result of man's greed and incompetence. The Aral Sea is portrayed in the shrunken, shrivelled form that has resulted from former Soviet lunacy over irrigation.

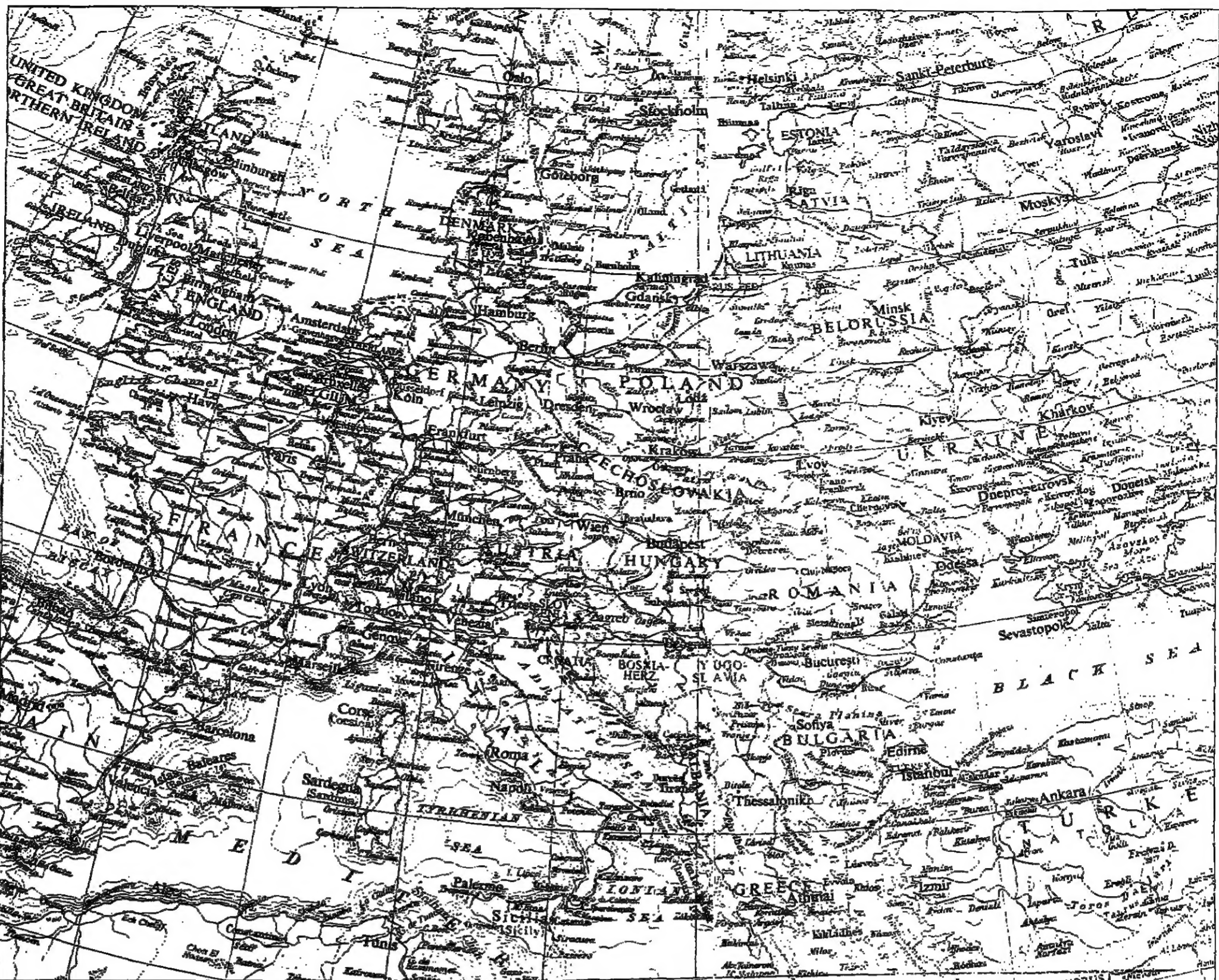
But even for the distinguished cartographic house of Bartholomew of Edinburgh, which has produced *The Times Atlas* since 1922, the world steadfastly refuses to stand still. Seventy per cent of the territory shown as Bosnia is currently not in the hands of Bosnians, and the declared aim of Czechoslovakia to tear itself into the Czech Republic and Slovakia is as yet unrecorded. Serbia does not appear as an independent state because, unlike Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, it has not been internationally recognised as such.

"You have to draw the line somewhere," Barry Winklemann, managing director of Times Books, publisher of the *Atlas*, said. "The situation in what was Yugoslavia is constantly shifting, and as for the Czechs, they have not actually done anything yet. For all we know, they might change their minds."

Late changes cost money. Incorporating a united Germany while the *Atlas* was in the making last year added £50,000 to production costs. Robin Orr, cartographic director at Bartholomew, said: "It has been over six months of very intense work. There were more changes than there have been at one time for a number of years."

For those confused by the sweeping changes in Russian geographical nomenclature, never fear: Leningrad, Stalingrad, Andropov, Brezhnev and the rest of the fallen idols of the communist interlude are listed, along with their new names, in the index.

Leading article, page 17



Upheaval from the Baltics to the Balkans: the map of Europe 1992 charts the break-up of the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, and the demise of the border dividing Germany



Redrawing the political map: the first *Times Atlas* showed Europe in the aftermath of the first world war, left. Sixty years later, the three Baltic states had disappeared, centre, but have now returned with some new neighbours



As the chief inspector of police calls for a new code, a Midlands force considers new rules

Police 'must seek truth within law'

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE officers must act within the law as unbiased investigators of the truth and never break the rules, Sir John Woodcock, chief inspector of constabulary, said yesterday.

He was speaking in a joint presentation with Sir Peter Imbert, commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, at the International Police Exhibition and Conference in London.

Sir John said that the police should accept a new code of ethics launched this autumn, give better service and take tighter control of the work of detectives. Police must "reinvent" themselves after coming close to disaster after recent miscarriages of justice and falling public confidence. Officers must recognise they cannot go outside the law.

Sir John and Sir Peter, the two most senior policemen in Britain, said that society and the legal profession had to share blame for the calamities befalling the police. Judges and lawyers had yet to recognise they existed to serve the public, not themselves.

Sir Peter also took a side-swipe at Kenneth Clarke's recent reference to the middle-Englanders who, the home

secretary said, police could ill afford to offend. They might have a role in making law, Sir Peter said, but were quite content to break it, law by ignoring a speed limit, evading tax or neglecting to pay a fare when the chance arose.

Sir John and Sir Peter were speaking in a debate on trust in the police and the search for truth. Sir John said the police service was riddled with corruption and expediency because of the demands on officers. That was partly prompted by widespread police distrust of the criminal justice system.

Society was prepared to close its eyes to the way the legal system came to depend on the police being economical with the truth. There was also what might be described as corruption or malpractice born from a short-sighted belief by officers that they knew the truth and wanted to make sure that justice won.

The majority of police acted with probity and the service accepted change, but Sir John said: "When I look across to the Bar and the judiciary I am not sure I see such willingness to change. I do not believe the other parts of the justice sys-



Sir John Woodcock: force must reinvent itself

tem have yet fully understood the move towards the empowerment of the consumer.

Courses were run for the benefit of judges, administrators, lawyers and other professions. Victims, suspects and the public came last. Courses set to suit practitioners. Where were the evening and weekend courses? The Bar was surrounded by remoteness.

Sir John said the new code of ethics would make it clear that police must not only seek the truth but tell the truth and make it clear the ends did not justify the means. Supervision would have to become active. Detective would no longer be in sole charge of cases. Superiors would have to find out what was happening, aware that they were also accountable.

Officers to get own Hippocratic oath

A CODE of conduct being drawn up for police officers in Leicestershire will contain ten to 15 principles that will form the core of their job, in the same way that the Hippocratic oath sets the seal on the professionalism of doctors (Stewart Tandler writes).

The group drafting the code met at county police headquarters yesterday, under the chairmanship of Michael Hirst, the chief constable and leader of a committee working to improve the quality of service. The group has been at work for eight months on a code that Mr Hirst says will be a practical guide for officers facing increasingly difficult jobs. It has drawn on codes of conduct created for police officers by the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

Until now, police have been guided by the elegant instruction to the first Metropolitan police in 1829, setting prevention of crime as the main object of policing and exhorting officers to maintain "the security of person and property, the preservation of the public tranquillity". Officers take an oath to uphold the law, are bound by numerous criminal laws and a long discipline code.

Chief constables were at first divided on the need for an ethical code, with traditionalists claiming that the discipline code was sufficient. The supporters of change have successfully argued that this amounts to a guide on how to avoid being a bad guy, not how to aspire to being a good one. After recent miscarriages of justice, a drop in public confidence and the prospect of changes in the criminal justice system, police agreed they had to be seen putting their own house in order.

Chief constables also fear that new standards of performance, established by the Audit Commission, may put pressure on officers to cut corners to meet targets. The standards start operating next year and include measurements such as the number of crimes solved by each officer, breath tests per head of population and number of drivers dealt with for speeding or dangerous driving.

The British code will call on officers to abide by the legal rights of criminals no matter how violent and unpleasant the crime. They will call on officers to use judgment and discretion as well as the force of the law.

Jobs plea made for soldiers

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE
CORRESPONDENT

EMPLOYERS were urged yesterday to forget the stereotype image of service personnel and give jobs to the 60,000 who are to leave the army, Royal Navy and RAF in the next two and a half years, as part of the government's *Options for Change* defence cuts.

Following bitter criticism of *Civvies*, the BBC drama series which shows redundant Parachute Regiment soldiers in violent scenes, Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, spoke out yesterday in defence of service personnel facing redundancy by 1995.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Regular Forces Employment Association in London, he described them as the "best trained workforce in Britain" and recommended them to employers as "confident, self-disciplined, completely loyal and resilient under pressure". He said the stereotype image had to be broken down.

Bush lobbied emir for US tanks order

By MARTIN FLETCHER AND MICHAEL EVANS

PRESIDENT Bush personally lobbied the Emir of Kuwait to buy 236 American tanks made by 6,000 workers in the key electoral states of Michigan and Ohio, instead of the British Challenger 2, a White House official said yesterday. Mr Bush wrote to the Kuwaiti leader last month.

Dan Quayle, vice-president, Lawrence Eagleburger, acting secretary of state, and Richard Cheney, defence secretary, also directly approached members of the Kuwaiti royal family in an unprecedented display of top-level pressure.

The contract "means jobs", the official said, who agreed the intervention was politically motivated.

Sir Colin Chandler, chief executive of Vickers Defence Systems, manufacturers of Challenger 2, was yesterday considering asking the government to lodge a protest with Kuwait over the deal with America.

Two days after the decision to buy the M1A2 Abrams tank, built by General Dynamics, Vickers, which is based in Leeds and Newcastle upon Tyne, had still received no official confirmation from the Kuwaitis.

Vickers officials are working hard to explain the background to the Kuwaiti decision to other potential buyers

in the Middle East. A prototype Challenger 2 is now undergoing trials in Oman.

Oman is in the market for 40-60 tanks, while the United Arab Emirates will need 360 tanks and Saudi Arabia a further 250.

"Our people in the Middle East are concentrating on reiterating the strengths of the Challenger 2 to counter some of the disinformation coming out of the US," Vickers said. □ Jonathan Aitken, defence procurement minister, on a tour of four Gulf states, held talks yesterday with the Emir of Bahrain.

US election, page 12

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John Foster, the team leader, moving. Mr Foster said.

Eton 'too plummy for words'

By NICHOLAS WATT

WAS Douglas Hurd's attempt to become prime minister foiled by the E word? *Tatler*, which once showed a little deference to old Etonians, has dared to suggest that the college's alumni are no longer of prime ministerial material.

The days when Harold Macmillan could pass over R.A.B. Butler for the prime ministership because he went to lowly Marlborough are firmly in the past, *Tatler* says. Eton will never again produce prime ministers, because its old boys have such plummy accents they can never sound caring on television.

A chorus of old Etonians loftily dismissed the magazine's findings yesterday. Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, a former scholar, said: "The anti-Eton lobby are like the anti-Rolls Royce lobby. They are against quality, which they call elitism."



Flying high: Flight Lieutenant Nicky Smith, 24, of Lichfield, Staffordshire, the first woman to gain her "wings" to fly military helicopters, at RAF Shawbury yesterday after completing her advanced flying training

Health firm fined for claiming pills raise children's IQ

■ A test case over claims about vitamin supplements has helped to establish legal limits, but doubts remain

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A HEALTH food company was fined £1,000 yesterday and ordered to pay £35,000 prosecution costs after being convicted of making false claims that vitamin pills could improve the intelligence of children.

The case, brought by Shropshire trading standards officers, is likely to cost Larkhall Natural Health, of southwest London, almost £90,000 by the time it has paid the fine and both sets of costs. Dr Robert Woodward, its chairman and managing director, said yesterday: "It was worth it. I would have preferred to use the money on research, but at least the case has cleared the air over the manner in which vitamin and mineral supplements should be marketed."

Harry Hatchard, Shropshire stipendiary magistrate, said that he did not regard the company's marketing of the product as a deliberate hoax. He was convinced that Dr Woodward genuinely believed the vitamin pills could enhance the intelligence of children. The company's offence was in not taking sufficient care in limiting claims about the product.

Robin Spencer, for the prosecution, accepted that it might be justifiable to claim that a minority of children on poor diets could benefit, but the packaging did not so limit its claims. The letters "IQ" on the front of the packages were, he said, intended to convey to the buyer "intelligence quotient". Larkhall had tried to disguise this inference by stating on the back of the packages that IQ stood for "ideal quota".

The magistrate accepted that a significant number of customers could be misled into thinking that the tablets were capable of a general and widespread effect in increasing the IQ of children. The offence, he said, "lay in not taking sufficient care to limit the extent of his claims for the product. I believe some children may well benefit from the supplements and there is no evidence of any children being adversely affected. I also note that no evidence of any complaint from a member of the public has been brought."

He fined the company £500 on each of two charges but gave an absolute discharge on a third, saying that it was virtually a repetition charge.

Dr Woodward said later that he would take advice on an appeal. He said that Tandem IQ tablets would now be marketed with an additional line saying: "For children not on a balanced diet."

David Walker, of Shropshire trading standards department, said after the hearing: "If it means that generalised claims that taking these supplements will increase your child's IQ are no longer used, then we will have achieved our purpose."

The prosecution had asked for £37,000 in costs — a figure described by Wendy Fawcett, for the defence, as "absolutely exorbitant". Mr Hatchard reduced the amount to £35,000. The company's costs were put at about £50,000. The case heard conflicting evidence from dietary experts.

Experts divided on evidence

THE controversy over whether vitamin supplements can boost IQ continues to divide psychologists, more than four years after the original claims led to a run on vitamin pills in chemists' shops (Nigel Hawkes writes).

The psychologist responsible for those claims, David Benton of University College, Swansea, remains convinced that the effect he unearthed is real. In a recent issue of *The Psychologist*, he wrote: "The time has passed when the link can be dismissed without serious thought and rational evaluation as obvious nonsense." Several studies have backed him, he says. He believes that only a minority of children benefit: those whose diets are deficient in vitamins and minerals.

Professor Hans Eysenck, of the Institute of Psychiatry at the University of London, takes a similar view. The improvements in IQ are likely to be seen only in children on a deficient diet, he says. Better school meals and other dietary improvements are the most obvious way of correcting the deficiency, "but chemical supplementation is another, if inferior choice, choice".

At the Shropshire hearing, Dr Michael Nelson, a lecturer in diet and nutrition at King's College, London, argued that between 3 and 10 per cent of children deficient in minerals could benefit from supplements, but this did not mean their intelligence would improve. It was unlikely that any improvement could be obtained in normal British children by taking vitamin supplements.

Faced with this wide difference of view, courts and parents can be forgiven a degree of confusion.

TV claims triggered sales boom

THE claims that vitamin pills could boost IQ, made originally in a BBC2 science programme, *QED*, were a marketing man's dream. Chemists were besieged by parents rushing to buy bottles of vitamins to ensure their children's future (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Sales soared to £10 million a year, but declined as later tests failed to produce the same unequivocal results. Three companies whose product launches coincided with the BBC science series have now been fined by Shropshire magistrates for breaching food labelling regulations.

The days after the two *QED* programmes were broadcast, in January 1988 and February 1991, newspaper advertisements appeared for new brands of multivitamins. Tandem IQ, Vitachieve and Boost IQ all sold well. Warnings that excess vitamins given to a child on a balanced diet would do no good and might even do harm went unheeded.

At the height of the boom, Larkhall was selling 25,000 packets of Tandem IQ at £4.95 each every week. Sales have now fallen to 200 packets a week.

The bubble burst when contrary findings began to be published. The Consumers' Association said that extra vitamins were unnecessary and a waste of money, and the British Diabetic Association warned that overdoses could even do damage.

New EC proposals, supported by the health department, may put a further crimp in the market by requiring vitamin pills and mineral supplements to be marketed as drugs, meaning manufacturers must prove effectiveness and lack of toxicity.

Villagers fight BT over ancient land

By JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

THE village of North Weald is the dream of every Essex man and woman. Its 4,000 inhabitants are mainly from London's East End, who want to bring up their children in the green belt but still be a 40 minute Underground ride away from the City of London.

But the village idyll is under threat from BT which has put forward a multi-million pound plan to build a business park, two golf courses, a hotel and 20 houses costing up to £500,000 each, on 720 acres which have been farmed for centuries. The land is also the site of Britain's oldest recorded deer park, mentioned in *Magna Carta*.

Yesterday a public enquiry into the application opened, after Epping Forest council rejected BT's

original plans. People in North Weald presented BT with a petition of more than 3,000 signatures protesting against the proposals which, they say, will ruin their village's rural character.

Jean Vaucher, who lives in a 16th century listed cottage on the proposed site for development, said: "Everybody comes here to walk their dogs and look at the wonderful views. If BT wins the case everyone will lose that access."

BT has withdrawn the farming licence held by James Kerr, whose family has worked the land since 1905, and will take him to court in November to gain a repossession order. The company says that it has a responsibility to shareholders to achieve maximum value on the land.

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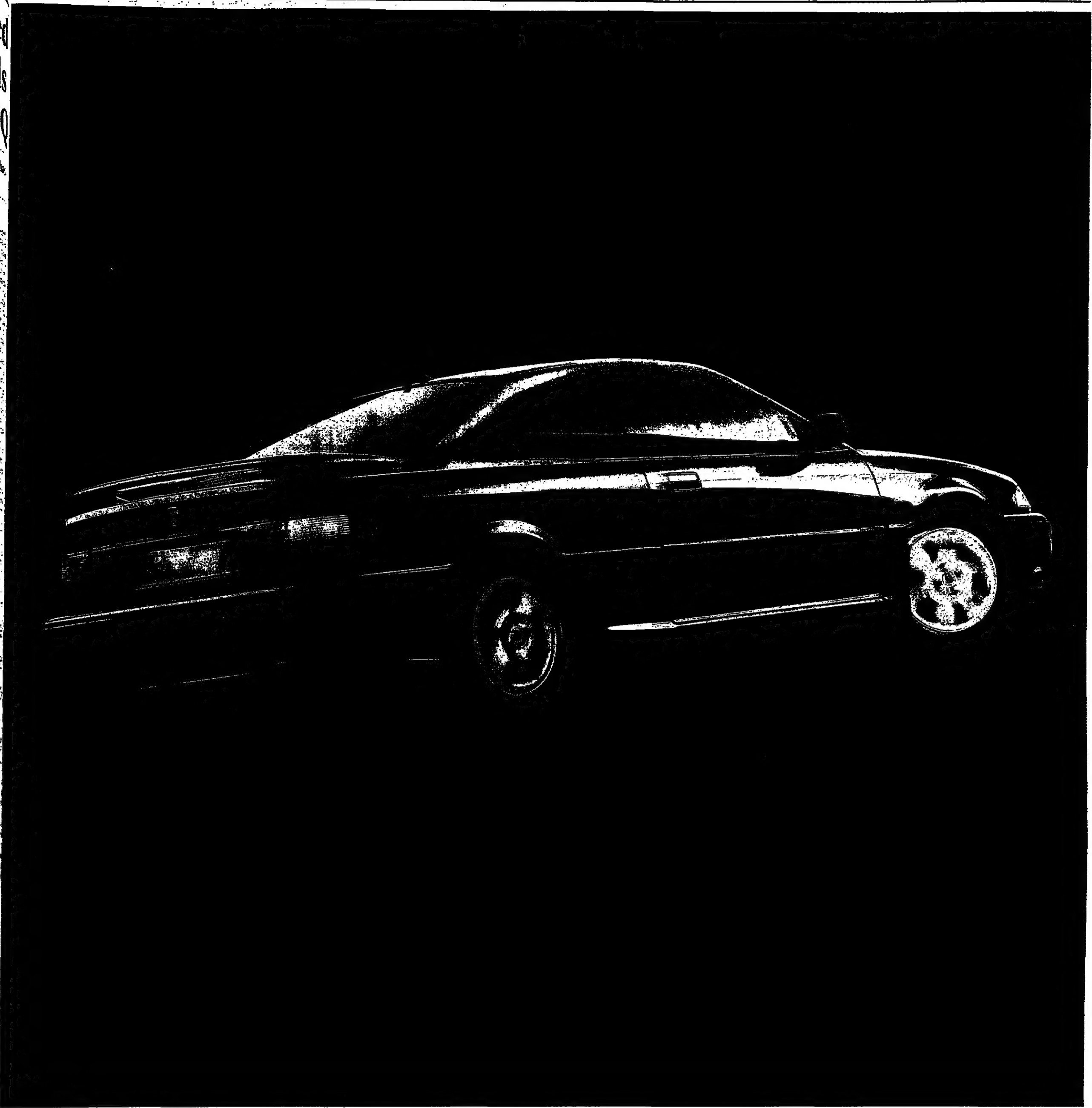
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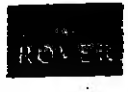
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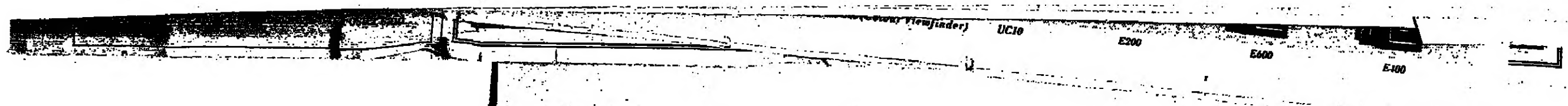
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NEWS BRIEF

Prisoner
claims
cover-up

Doctor cleared

Marsh bought

Libel award

Wheeled out

Mo
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Church leaders fear poor health may force Pope to resign

■ Relationships with Islam could be as big a challenge to any successor as the fall of Communism was for John Paul II

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

SPECULATION that Pope John Paul II might resign is mounting in Rome after his recovery from an operation earlier this year. Names being mentioned as possible successors include Cardinal Francis Arinze, a Nigerian, who would be the first black pope.

John Paul II, Bishop of Rome and supreme pastoral leader in the Roman Catholic church, is reported to appear frail and tired, despite his good recovery. The latest English edition of *The Catholic World Report*, a Rome journal, suggests that the Pope's health is so impaired he might resign in three years and name six senior cardinals as possible successors. The journal cites Peter Hebblethwaite, the British Vatican watcher and the leading historian of the papacy of the twentieth century, in support of three of the contenders.

The Pope survived a four-hour operation to remove a large tumour in his colon this summer, but insiders believe he will be unable to maintain the vigorous pace he set for the first 14 years of his papacy, according to the journal, a monthly publication produced in Rome by I-Media, an international news agency.

The papacy is usually a position held until death, which in earlier centuries was often by martyrdom, but the pope can resign. Under a recent change in canon law, bishops must offer their resignation when they turn 75, although the pope need not accept it. Earlier this month the Pope refused to accept the resignation of Cardinal Cahal Daly, Primate of All Ireland, and asked him to stay for as long as he could cope.

The only pope to resign

outside the Western schism of 1378-1415 was Celestine V, in 1294, a hermit elected at the age of 80. He stepped down after a brief, disastrous reign because he believed himself physically and mentally incapable of governing the church. He was later canonised.

Mr Hebblethwaite, whose history of Paul VI, pope for 1963-78, will be published next year, said the Pope might possibly resign, but it would depend on the state of affairs at the time. He said last night: "People are talking about nothing else in the Roman curia." The right pope would probably be aged between 65 and 67, so his papacy would last a reasonable time but not too long. John Paul II, 58 on election, was an exception, elected when his predecessor, John Paul I, died unexpectedly after a brief reign of 33 days in 1978.

Mr Hebblethwaite said the *papabile* — possible candidates for the papacy — would include Cardinal Carlo Martini SJ of Milan, 65. "I would strongly approve of that and so would everybody. He is a man

of quite outstanding distinction, spirituality and New Testament scholarship. He has been an extremely good Archbishop of Milan since he went there in 1986 and he is a good communicator. The disadvantage is that he is a Jesuit. He has offended *Opus Dei* because he does not particularly want it in his diocese."

Another possibility is Cardinal Pio Laghi, 70, prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education from last year and former papal nuncio to the United States. He would be the ideal candidate of the Roman curia but "totally disastrous" for the church, Mr Hebblethwaite says.

The most imaginative and forward-thinking choice would be Cardinal Arinze, 60, president of the Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue in the curia. Just as John Paul II, from Poland, was the right choice for an era which saw an end to Communism, so a Nigerian Pope would be ideal for an era which many believe will see relationships with Islam take centre stage.

Other names being mentioned in Rome, according to the journal, are Cardinal Giacomo Biffi, Archbishop of Bologna; Cardinal Camillo Ruini, Vicar General of Rome, and Cardinal Godfried Danneels, Archbishop of Brussels, Belgium.

No British, Irish or American bishops are thought at present to be in the running, although anything could happen. The pope is elected by a secret conclave of the College of Cardinals. From August this year, 43 of the 157 cardinals were ineligible to take part in a papal election because they had passed the age of 80.



Pope John Paul II: tired and frail after operation



Intruders' route: Ken Maginnis inspecting the gap cut in a perimeter fence by two suspected IRA men

Ulster MP blames IRA for murder mission

REPUBLICAN and Loyalist gunmen were both blamed yesterday for a suspected assassination attempt at council offices.

Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, claimed that he was the target of the IRA. Two men wearing waterproof clothes were seen acting suspiciously inside the grounds of Dungannon District Council offices, where he was attending a meeting on Monday night.

The men, who ran off after being seen, had cut their way through a perimeter fence and were about to enter the building when a security guard raised the alarm. Police later found wirecutters dropped by the two men as they fled. Security sources believe they were both armed.

The IRA denied any involvement and the organisation's political wing, Sinn Féin, alleged that Protestant paramilitaries were targeting two of its councillors, Frankie Molloy and Raymond McMahon, who were also in the council chamber.

Mr Maginnis, 54, an outspoken critic of the IRA, is one of the politicians heavily involved in the all-party talks process on the future of Northern Ireland. There have been at least six attempts, involving guns and bombs, on his life. On one occasion he intercepted a parcel bomb delivered to his heavily-protected home. It contained a half-pound of explosives.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prisoner claims cover-up

A prisoner serving the twentieth year of a life sentence for a shotgun murder left the High Court yesterday claiming a victory in the latest round of a long fight to prove his innocence. Paul Clelland is seeking a judicial review of the home secretary's refusal to refer his case back to the Court of Appeal. The proceedings were adjourned to allow the Home Office to be represented in court and to respond to allegations that vital evidence had disappeared.

Clelland, 49, wants the Home Office to produce a transcript of evidence given by Frank Lyne, a defence witness at his trial in 1973. He says that Mr Lyne, then president of the Association of Public Analysts, swore that he was satisfied that lead traces found on Clelland's clothing were not consistent with firing a gun.

Clelland alleges a cover-up over production of the transcript, which he believes can help to prove he did not kill Terence Clark.

Doctor cleared

Dr Joel Danjuma was cleared at Liverpool Crown Court of indecently assaulting four women he examined while a senior house officer at Wigan Royal Infirmary last year.

Marsh bought

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has paid £600,000 for the 567-acre Buckenham and Cantley Marshes in Norfolk to protect wintering birds.

Libel award

Richard Hutchings, a property consultant, was awarded undisclosed libel damages in the High Court for an article in *The Sunday Times* suggesting that he had managed the English and American property portfolio of the Church Commissioners in an incompetent manner.

Wheeled out

Ben Brown, 19, a Cambridge University undergraduate, was fined £20 by the city's magistrates for riding a one-wheel unicycle in the city centre, where cycles are banned. He said he thought that the ban applied only to one or two-wheel machines.

Ploughing experts uncover dark secret

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A NEW hazard may be about to be added to country living: farmers who follow the latest scientific findings and plough their fields at dead of night.

Studies in Germany, Denmark, Britain and the US have shown that fields ploughed in the dark can produce much smaller crops of weeds than those ploughed by day. The most recent study, from Oregon State University, indicates the number of weeds could be halved if farmers went on to night shifts.

Ana Scopel, who collaborated with Dr Carlos Ballare in the work, said: "Many seeds require light to germinate, and cultivation exposes them to light before burying them again. Even a fraction of a second can be enough to start the germination process."

"Cultivation by night has a dramatic effect," she told a meeting of the Ecological Society of America. "But we need more studies in more diverse cropping systems to discover whether it is really worth the effort."

George Cussans of Rothamsted Experimental Station at Harpenden, Hertfordshire, said many weeds produce dormant seeds that

can survive for 50 years or more in the soil. To germinate, they need a combination of factors, including light, even a flash lasting a fraction of a second.

All weed seeds are different. "Some are more light-sensitive than others, and it also varies with the age of the seed," Mr Cussans said. "Those that have been buried longest need less light, for reasons we don't understand. The colour of the light is also important: we showed that green safelights don't trigger germination. Cultivating at night is not necessarily the same as cultivating in the dark. Some seeds are so sensitive that moonlight can trigger them off."

These big variations, he says, reduce the practicability of the process for farmers.

If the process could be shown to work, the best method would be to drape blackout curtains over the business ends of ploughs, harrows and seed-drills, so that it was dark at the point where the soil was turned. "Then, of course, you would need a safelight under the curtains, with a video camera and closed-circuit television so that the farmer could see what he was doing."

More shoppers turn to 'green' products

By KATE ALDERSON

SHOPPERS are expressing concern for the environment through the supermarket trolley, choosing to buy more "green" and recycled products.

While only 4.4 per cent of the population joins an environmental pressure group, one third buys recycled paper products and about the same total avoids products tested on animals. The availability of environmentally friendly products is rated as important by 44 per cent of shoppers. Over 40 per cent of people in the 55-65 age group use bottle banks and 43 per cent in the 15-20 age group choose not to buy products tested on animals, according to *The British Shopper*, a book published by the Nielsen marketing information group which details the purchasing habits of the

British people. Consumers are also filling their shopping baskets with healthier products, opting for more low-fat, low-sugar and low-caffeine goods, the survey finds. Low-calorie carbonated drinks now have 30 per cent of the market, and low fat yellow fats, such as a margarine, are preferred by half of shoppers.

Despite this concern with healthier groceries, the number of women worrying about their weight has dropped. Nielsen's survey shows that in 1987, 30 per cent of women were concerned about their weight, but by 1991 this had fallen to 24 per cent.

Only 2.4 per cent of the population shops on a Sunday. Shoppers' main concerns are convenience, location, range of goods and cost.

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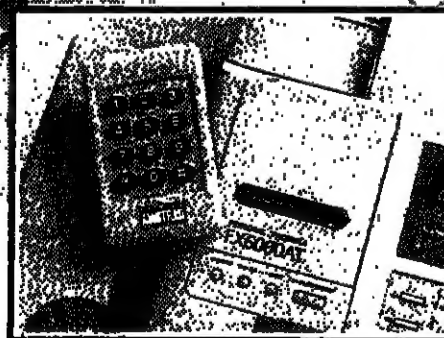


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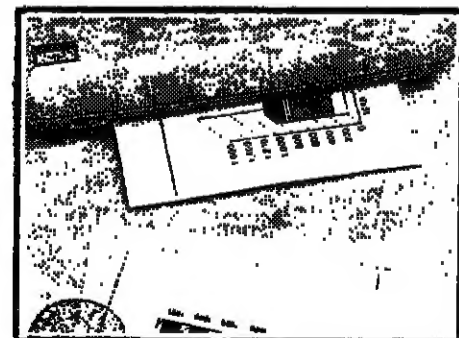
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Danish parties push for 'binding changes' to Maastricht treaty

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

TENSION grew yesterday in the run-up to the European Community summit in Birmingham on Friday when Danish political parties said they would seek "binding" changes or additions to the Maastricht treaty, which might mean other EC members starting their approval procedures all over again.

Since Denmark narrowly rejected the treaty last June, its minority coalition government has been studiously vague about the exact nature of the changes it seeks before an amended treaty can be put to a second referendum next year. All 13 governments have put their names to repeated communiqués ruling out any revision of a text which was only agreed with great difficulty at the end of last year.

But yesterday the Danish Social Democratic party, the largest in the parliament, publicly confirmed that "Denmark's demands must be legally binding". Legally binding changes require the Maastricht text to be reopened "which may mean re-ratification in certain states which have already passed the treaty, and will provoke demands for other changes from other dissatisfied groups elsewhere in the EC."

Bjorn Westh, the Social Democrat spokesman on the Community, said: "We have no desire to make things more difficult than necessary for the other EC countries. But if a solution requires a new round of ratification, then so be it." The small Radical Liberal and Socialist Peoples' parties have asked for enforceable guarantees to be inserted into the treaty. Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish foreign minister, has already said that no list of requested changes will be ready for Birmingham, but will reach the British government early next month. Britain, holding the EC's rotating

presidency until the end of the year, is responsible for brokering a deal between Denmark and its impatient partners.

Danish ministers have laid heavy emphasis on improving the text of Copenhagen's opt-out from the single currency and on being able to prevent Danes serving in any European army of the future. However, other parties have also worried about the treaty's provisions on common European citizenship, welfare and immigration.

The raising of the Danish demands confronts the British government with a dilemma, since ministers have said that

Denmark should not be "coerced" back into line. But most other governments are keen to apply maximum pressure on Denmark to ratify the treaty with the minimum alteration to its text.

The British, Danish and German governments have discussed a scheme which would postpone changing the treaty until the basic text has been ratified. After full ratification by 12 states, the first round of amendments would quickly follow, since the EC's treaty is soon due to be amended to increase the number of German MEPs.

Simon Jenkins, page 16



Holding out: Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish foreign minister, will not reveal demands at summit

Hurd says UN forces must act together

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR
AND ADAM LEBOR IN SPLIT

AS BRITISH troops prepared to leave for Yugoslavia, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, yesterday gave a warning that without proper co-ordination Western peacekeeping forces would be little more than an "ineffective rag-bag".

He said the countries providing contingents had to develop confidence in each other's capabilities. Command and control systems had to justify that confidence. Such mutual confidence was not necessary in the Falklands, but became necessary in the Gulf and would be crucial in most peacekeeping operations in future. "Our own forces are rightly studying the implication," Mr Hurd said.

Mr Hurd's caution came as Serb police clashed with thousands of ethnic Albanian demonstrators in Kosovo province where the first blood of the Yugoslav conflict was shed more than three years ago. Police in riot gear wielding batons and firing tear-gas canisters waded into crowds of unarmed students demanding freedom of education outside the university and in the main squares of the provincial capital Pristina.

Jets screamed low overhead as retreating students pushed their way into Pristina's main square through a cordon of police. Demonstrators picked up canisters spewing out tear gas and flung them back at police.

The demonstrations in Kosovo started on Monday with students demanding Albanian-language education and the right to set their own curriculum. Mr Hurd meanwhile told his audience at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies that peacekeeping would not be "tidy". Britain's armed forces could not expect textbook precision. But peacekeeping in the 1990s was a crucial change in direction.

In the past four years 11 new operations had been authorised, compared to 13 over the previous 43 years. At the beginning of 1992, the deployment of United Nations military personnel and civilian police in peacekeeping was roughly 11,500; last month the figure stood at around 51,000, including new deployments authorised by the security council for Somalia and Bosnia.

In the Croatian port of Split, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the UN human rights commissioner's special envoy, arrived at the start of his investigation into human rights abuses on the



Mazowiecki: studying human rights abuses

territory of the former Yugoslavia. He will be concentrating on investigating widespread ethnic cleansing in Serb-occupied Bosnia and reports of atrocities in Serb-run detention camps, but will also be noting information about human rights abuses carried out by Croats or Muslims.

The information he receives will be passed to the war crimes commission that the UN voted to set up a few days ago.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Striking trade unionists disrupt Italy

Rome: A four-hour nationwide strike by Italian trade unions angry over cuts in the welfare state disrupted communications and industrial production (John Phillips writes). Union leaders agreed that they would maintain essential services.

US 'genocide'

San Francisco: A tribunal representing indigenous people has found the US government "guilty" of genocide, 500 years after Christopher Columbus's voyage, and plans to take its case to the World Court in the Hague. (Reuters)

Killed in crush

Johannesburg: A mineworker killed four people, while they slept, in the eastern Transvaal by crushing their heads with a bulldozer after an argument. (Reuters)

Leader named

Kiev: Ukraine's parliament approved industrialist Leonid Kuchma as prime minister, two weeks after Vitold Fokin resigned. (Reuters)

Woof justice

The Hague: Dutch dogs face a criminal record if they bite. Offenders will be subject to muzzling or being kept permanently on a leash. (Reuters)

Prospects for Gatt talks remain bleak

By GEORGE BROCK

BRITAIN will try to use Friday's European Community summit in Birmingham to revive world trade talks which dribbled to a stop without result again on Monday night. But chances for a breakthrough remain bleak and a transatlantic trade war looms.

Since further meetings are planned for the weekend in Toronto, EC leaders can probably only agree a regulation-issue statement of their keenness to reach a settlement. But summits of the Community and the G7 industrial nations have routinely made such calls for the past two years without effect.

The present round of talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) has lasted six years and been blocked for the past two by EC-US rows over farm subsidies. Both sides believe that if a deal is not struck by the end of this month, talks will be made impossible by the climax of the American presidential election and the end of the White House negotiating mandate. A handful of simmering commodity rows ranging from steel to soy may explode if no new Gatt treaty is agreed.

Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission which negotiates on behalf of the 12 EC members, told EC ambassadors on Monday night that progress had been made on liberalising trade in services, but that gaps remained on farm issues. Since

agriculture is the key to completing the negotiation, this is not an optimistic assessment.

American officials had talked up the chances of success in advance of the talks but arrived with few new ideas and met an EC side which also had little room to manoeuvre. French ministers said that if the Commission stepped outside its mandate agreed by governments, France would veto a deal.

Commission officials have believed for some time that a compromise can only be reached if both sides leave their fixed positions, which will mean the Commission going beyond the limits of its negotiating brief. If a package could be settled, the Commission would hope that France be bullied into accepting a deal by its 11 partners.

But France shows no sign of surrendering over a deal that would make its already weak Socialist government even more unpopular with the country's mutinous farmers who threatened to descend on Paris today. "By imposing unbearable agricultural constraints on us, Mr Bush is preventing an agreement," Dominique Strauss-Kahn, France's trade and industry minister, said yesterday.

The problem that has hobbled the talks is the weakness of the French and American governments who dare not offend farmers before their forthcoming elections.



Mazowiecki: studying human rights abuses

German leaders agree on limiting asylum

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN BONN

GERMANY'S ruling coalition has succeeded finally in agreeing a proposal for restrictions on political asylum on the eve of a key parliamentary debate on the subject. The proposal is intended to bring German law into line with the harsher rules of most European countries.

The coalition has to persuade the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), because without their support, the amendment to the constitutional clause guaranteeing asylum cannot receive the necessary two-thirds majority when it is put to parliament. However, the SPD is divided and its is almost certain to boycott the vote.

In the first nine months of this year, 319,674 asylum-seekers arrived in Germany — an increase of 88 per cent

on 1991. On average, fewer than 5 per cent of those applying have been granted asylum, but many of the rest have been able to stay. This has been directly responsible for provoking the present wave of right-wing violence.

In the east German state of Mecklenburg yesterday, the mayor of the capital, Schwerin, sent back asylum-seekers for whom he was supposed to provide shelter. People of the town of Goldberg have blocked the road leading to a disused barracks where asylum-seekers are to be quartered, and have threatened to set up a citizens' militia.

Many members of the SPD oppose a restriction of asylum on principle and fear that to change the law would be surrendering to racism. Over the weekend, three

SPD regional groups voted against change.

There have been warnings that if the SPD conference does not follow Bjorn Engholm, the party leader, for a change in the law, his authority would be undermined and he could be forced to resign.

At the Congress of the Media Trades Union in Munich yesterday, Herr Engholm repeated the necessity for change. "Otherwise, if next year another 250,000 arrive, then I am certain that we will lose our legitimacy among some of our voters." He warned that if the SPD did not agree to an amendment, then others would bring in one "which would make our ears ring".

The proposal was worked out after months of sometimes bitter debate between

the parties. The Bavarian Christian Social Union, traditionally right wing and under electoral pressure from the extreme-right Republicans, wanted to drop the asylum clause. The Liberals, traditional defenders of the constitution, insisted that the basic right of political asylum must remain.

The proposal, which is to be put to the Bundestag tomorrow drops the present constitutional clause: "The politically persecuted enjoy the right of asylum," replacing it with a guarantee to uphold the principles of the Geneva Convention. The proposal explicitly excludes asylum-seekers from states where no persecution exists, those coming from third countries, and those without legal papers.



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Yeltsin lets Gorbachev travel

FROM ANNE MCELVOY
IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin of Russia last night relented towards Mikhail Gorbachev, his arch enemy, by intervening with the constitutional court to allow the former Soviet president to bypass the travel ban that threatened to prevent him from attending the funeral of Willy Brandt in Berlin this weekend.

Valeri Zorkin, the court's chairman, said that it still insisted that Mr Gorbachev should testify, but the travel ban would be lifted on "humanitarian grounds". Mr Gorbachev had indicated that he was prepared to compromise to break the deadlock between himself and the court over his refusal to testify in the trial, which intends to determine the legitimacy or otherwise of the former Soviet Communist party.

Vladimir Tyumakhin, his spokesman, said that Mr Gorbachev would agree to co-operate with the court but he would not appear at formal hearings. "He is prepared to meet the judges in private," Mr Tyumakhin told the Interfax news agency. The softening of stance on both sides suggests that the antagonists are keen to defuse the furious dispute that has marred the past few weeks. Mr Yeltsin who had appeared keen to pursue a harsh course

■ Both Gorbachev and the court trying the Communist party appear to have softened their stance in the dispute over the former Soviet leader's refusal to testify

against his rival found that the death of Brandt, the former West German chancellor and architect of Ostpolitik, raised the stakes for the Russian government, laying it open to charges of dictatorial practices towards its enemies.

After Mr Gorbachev, who was a friend of Brandt, issued particularly outspoken criticisms of the government last week, Moscow police acting on Mr Yeltsin's orders moved in to seize the plush building that the Gorbachev Foundation think-tank occupied. Mr Gorbachev's passport was removed and he was prevented from taking a planned trip to South Korea.

On Monday, however, Bonn joined Portugal and Spain in protesting against the ban. Dieter Vogel, the government spokesman, issued a statement that said it placed "very high value" on Mr Gorbachev being allowed to attend Brandt's funeral. The court replied that it did not object to Mr Gorbachev attending the funeral if he testified first, but it is unlikely that this can happen in time. Last night, the former president announced that he would

consult Mr Zorkin after he returned but that he would also take the chance to carry out a planned trip to Italy — which will be seen by the Yeltsin camp as pushing his luck.

The new suggestion of a private hearing will not please most Russians who think that Mr Gorbachev is over-rated and privileged enough as it is. Mr Zorkin has been insisting that the former statesman be treated "like any other citizen", but the recalcitrant witness is wily enough to know that he has friends in powerful places abroad. This is particularly true in Bonn where there are loud squeals of indignation whenever he is the target of the Yeltsin group's revenge. He is now the only one of the former elite who has failed to testify in the trial that began in June.

Valentin Falin, his once-powerful adviser on Germany, appeared on Friday on condition that he was allowed free passage to leave again on Monday, despite being under investigation for corruption. Egon Bahr, a prominent Social Democrat in Hamburg, and Countess Marion Dönhoff, the publisher of *Die Zeit*,

have offered Mr Falin hospitality and financial support. The invitation has irritated the Yeltsin camp who feel that liberal circles abroad are foolish to accord former communists the status of later-day dissidents. Catching the prevailing wind from the salons of the West, Mr Gorbachev has taken to referring to himself as a "refusenik".

Mr Gorbachev has been adamant that he will not appear in the witness box, claiming that his evidence would be used by participants in the August coup last year to whitewash their record and to help Mr Yeltsin by distracting the public from the present economic misery. He has described the procedure as "a transparent pandering to selfish political ends".

On Monday Aleksandr Yakovlev, once a close ally of Mr Gorbachev, broke ranks saying that Mr Yeltsin had been right to ban the Communist party after the attempted coup last August and that the party was inherently hostile towards democracy. Asked who was to blame for the coup, he replied: "It was the logical course of those forces who dominated the top party circles." He added: "Can we consider it socially acceptable and safe for a society to retain an organisation whose misconceptions have persisted for three-quarters of a century? Surely not."

Mao's old wheels to turn a profit

FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN PEKING

A LIMOUSINE which may have belonged to Chairman Mao Tse-tung will come under the hammer today in Communist China's first international antiques auction, but you will need at least \$220,000 (£129,000) to secure it. Officials will say only that the Chinese-made Hongqi (Red Flag) limousine was used by senior figures in the Chinese leadership and came from within the leadership compound of Zhongnanhai where Mao lived, next door to the Forbidden City.

But one manager of a state factory in Henan province is convinced enough of its provenance to have said he will bid that sum. "It will bring my factory fame throughout China," the manager told officials, in charge of the four-day event, who are auctioning 800 pieces of jewellery, jade, painting, calligraphy and books to registered fat cats, mostly businessmen from Hong Kong and Taiwan, though a few are native mainland Chinese.

There is a widespread perception in the Chinese capital that the limousine was used by Mao, who died in 1976, but officials say they are under orders not to say to whom the vehicle, whose number-plate has been removed, specifically belonged, though they add it also conveyed the highest-level foreign guests, perhaps even President Nixon in 1972.

Liu Shuren, 40, a one-time youthful Red Guard who confesses she still loves Chairman Mao, is in charge of showing off the car, which has 22,267 miles on the clock, a top speed of 125 mph and a dashboard clock stopped at 2:10.

Though she plainly did not regard this correspondent as a serious prospective buyer, Mrs Liu was comradely enough to let me sit in the back of the stretched limousine, where China's late Great Leader may have reclined alongside his unlamented wife, the late Jiang Qing, as he reviewed Red Guards or drove to his weekend retreat in the western hills. I sat back on the plush



Fire of the revolution: a Peking street vendor offers Mao Tse-tung lighters which burst into flame as well as flame and sell for the equivalent of £1.50p

beige seat and gazed through a window at a view only slightly obscured by the brown net curtain that enables Chinese leaders to shield themselves from the curious gaze of the "broad masses". The view was of one of Peking's garish new high-rise hotels.

Given the fact that his Cultural Revolution was referred to in recent years as the "ten years of chaos", it is odd during the current session of the 14th Communist party congress to find some taxi-drivers with a portrait of Mao glued to the dashboard. Yet, just a year or so ago, Stalin was popular among Soviet lorry drivers.

"There was no corruption in Mao's day and Mao would never have turned guns on the masses," one driver recently

told a passenger, in an apparent reference to high-level party nepotism and the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

But, with Tiananmen in mind, and while visiting the site of the auction in the northeast of the city, a tout offered this correspondent a much more chilling memento. It was a watch awarded by the hardline Peking municipal party committee to soldiers who participated in the bloody suppression of the students' pro-democracy protests.

Below the images of Tiananmen Gate and a helmeted soldier of the People's Liberation Army are the words: "To commemorate bringing to an end the turmoil in Peking, June 1989." Price: \$70. This prospective buyer decided to pass.

Congress maintains great wall of secrecy

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON
IN PEKING

THE Chinese Communist party congress retreated into its traditional secrecy yesterday as delegates huddled in private group sessions behind closed doors. For those eager to know of the intrigues behind the official facade, the reminiscences of Li Weixin, who has helped to organise party congresses since the Communists took power in 1949, offer some clues.

Mr Li disclosed in a Canton newspaper this week that, five years ago at the last congress, veteran revolutionaries turned up in a bad mood. For the first time they were invited only as non-voting observers, and they were offended.

They arrived in Peking with retinues of wives and servants only to lose their tempers when they found they were expected to share rooms with other delegates.

Mr Li wrote: "What could we do? It was no good if the old comrades did not have their servants near them." After an emergency meeting, veterans were each allowed a room to themselves but their servants had to share.

A spokesman at the party press centre yesterday refused to discuss the sleeping arrangements for delegates or their servants this week. But at the opening ceremony, Wen Jiabao, who five years ago ingratiated himself with veteran revolutionaries by giving them a room each, was seated on the front row of the podium reserved for party VIPs. This time, old revolutionaries have been given full voting powers.

Mr Li's memoirs show how the party congresses maintain their shroud of secrecy. In 1969, at the height of the Cultural Revolution, the congress was to be held without the public knowing.

Mr Li selected "politically correct" staff to attend to the delegates' needs and then ordered them to cut themselves off from the world. They were to make no telephone calls, write no letters, entertain no guests and they were not to go home.

Mayors find lady of mettle to worship

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

YOU could have heard a kimono rustle. Nine hundred elderly mayors, deputy mayors and rural town councillors sat in the absolute silence of anticipation, like small boys told that Cinderella is about to draw up in her carriage.

There was no need for a rendition of *Land of Hope and Glory*. As double doors were theatrically flung open and Baroness Thatcher marched into the banquet hall, hundreds of sprightly octogenarians leapt to their feet, excitedly clapping and jumping up and down to get a glimpse of the legendary Iron Lady. Instantaneous cameras, held randomly aloft, clicked away and a low murmur of adulation spread

to the front of the hall. "Look, there she is, eddy Satchel. Ah... she looks even better in the flesh than I thought," said the mayor of Kochi, poking his elderly neighbour in the ribs to make sure he too had seen the vision of loveliness in royal blue striding up to the podium.

Not since 1989, when a Japanese government flush with cash announced a surprise hundred million yen (£500,000) handout to every town in Japan to be dispensed as it pleased, has Japan's mayoral community seen so much collective excitement in one day. Having snored through two days of speeches on agricultural subsidies and urban drift,

every delegate was alert and awake, for here was the most formidable woman of their dreams standing before their very eyes, and praising them to the skies.

Lady Thatcher, presumably with an eye on her rumoured £50,000 lecture fee, deftly turned yesterday's topic — "the role of Japan in the international community" — into a lengthy tribute to Japan and the Japanese. "May I pay great tribute to Japan... its many achievements... it's a very important player on the international stage, remarkable in many ways".

Some mayors diligently took notes, most nodded contentedly and polished and repolished their specta-

cles the better to view their heroine. In a country where women are expected to address men in girly sing-song falsetto voices, Lady Thatcher's hectoring baritone had these men on the edges of their seats in excitement. "Now I know why she's called the Iron Lady," said one good-humoured mayoral fan who, attempting to ask a question, had been admonished first for being too shy and then for not standing up properly all over far too soon. Just as mayors from Hokkaido to Kyushu were plucking up courage to confront Lady Thatcher, it was time for Her Ladyship to rush off to her next ten-million-yen appointment.

Bush camp promises cabinet purge as campaign hopes dim

By JAMIE DETTMER

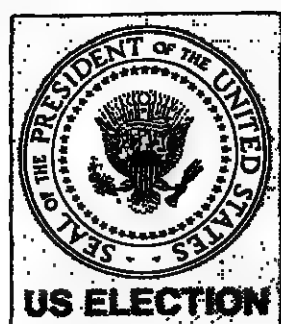
AS THE vice-presidential candidates gathered last night in Atlanta, Georgia, for their only televised debate, George Bush's aides tried to invigorate the seemingly failing Republican campaign by announcing that there would be a root-and-branch shake-up of the White House if the president is re-elected.

In an obvious search for ways to boost Mr Bush's campaign, James Baker, the White House chief of staff, sent a letter late on Monday night to all cabinet members and senior political appointees telling them that the president expected them to tender their resignations after the election. While it is common practice for top officials to offer to resign between presidential terms, it is not traditional for the resignation request to be announced before an election.

Senior Bush aides, acknowledging that the president failed to gain any momentum from Sunday's televised debate, were at pains to explain that a second-term Bush administration would look very different from the past four years and would concentrate on domestic issues.

President Bush contributed yesterday to the feeling of desperation now obvious in Republican ranks by wandering into a live television interview with his wife, Barbara, during the impromptu appearance, he unleashed another attack on Bill Clinton's draft record and again denounced the Democrat for "organising demonstrations" against the Vietnam war. "I'm not questioning patriotism. I

■ With Bush faltering, Dan Quayle had high Republican hopes riding on his TV debate last night



am questioning character and judgment," he said.

An opinion poll released yesterday by CBS television suggests that Mr Clinton's lead over President Bush has increased from 8 per cent to 12 per cent. Yesterday, the president of the Mason-Dixon polling agency said he believed that the Democrat and Arkansas governor was now heading for an "overwhelming margin" and predicted a landslide victory.

As the Bush ranks grow more discouraged, the vice-presidential debate, normally considered a sideshow, has begun to take on added importance for the Republicans. There were high hopes in the Bush camp last night that Dan Quayle, the vice-president, would be able to confound his detractors and succeed in his encounter with

Senator Al Gore, the Democrat vice-presidential nominee, and the retired admiral James Stockdale, Ross Perot's running mate.

Despite Mr Quayle's poor performance in the 1988 vice-presidential debate against Lloyd Bentsen, he is not being written off by the Clinton camp. The public expectations of him are so low that the vice-president merely has to avoid a gaffe to appear to be doing well.

Writing in *The Washington Post* yesterday, Tad Devine, who was Mr Bentsen's 1988 campaign manager, said: "Quayle's positioning is almost perfect. Debates are won by exceeding expectations, and Quayle should succeed enormously on this score."

A Gallup poll published yesterday emphasised that, despite nearly four years standing just a heartbeat away from the presidency, Mr Quayle has still not convinced voters that he deserves to be considered a top politician.

Mr Gore, who has served 16 years in Congress, is widely recognised as a good and well-informed debater. His biggest risk is that he will appear wooden, as he did in his failed 1988 campaign to secure the Democrat presidential nomination, when he was accused of being "Al Bore".

Traditionally, the vice-presidential debate is rougher than presidential encounters, and it is unlikely that either Mr Quayle or Mr Gore will hold back. Both men have made strident and aggressive speeches on the campaign trail and have levelled their sights on the presidential candidates. The pressure is on Mr Quayle to draw blood and he is almost certain to try to attack Mr Clinton on "character issues" while labelling Mr Gore, who has written a best-selling book on the environment, an "environmental extremist".

While Mr Quayle and Mr Gore trade shots, commentators expected Mr Stockdale to stay above the fray. The retired admiral and decorated Vietnam war hero is now an academic and specialist in Greek philosophy. He has no political record and was originally picked by Mr Perot as a temporary stand-in for running mate. Smart and scholarly, he may find it hard to emulate Mr Perot in pithy one-liners. His advantage will come in that he is an unknown quantity who will hope merely to avoid damaging Mr Perot's momentum.

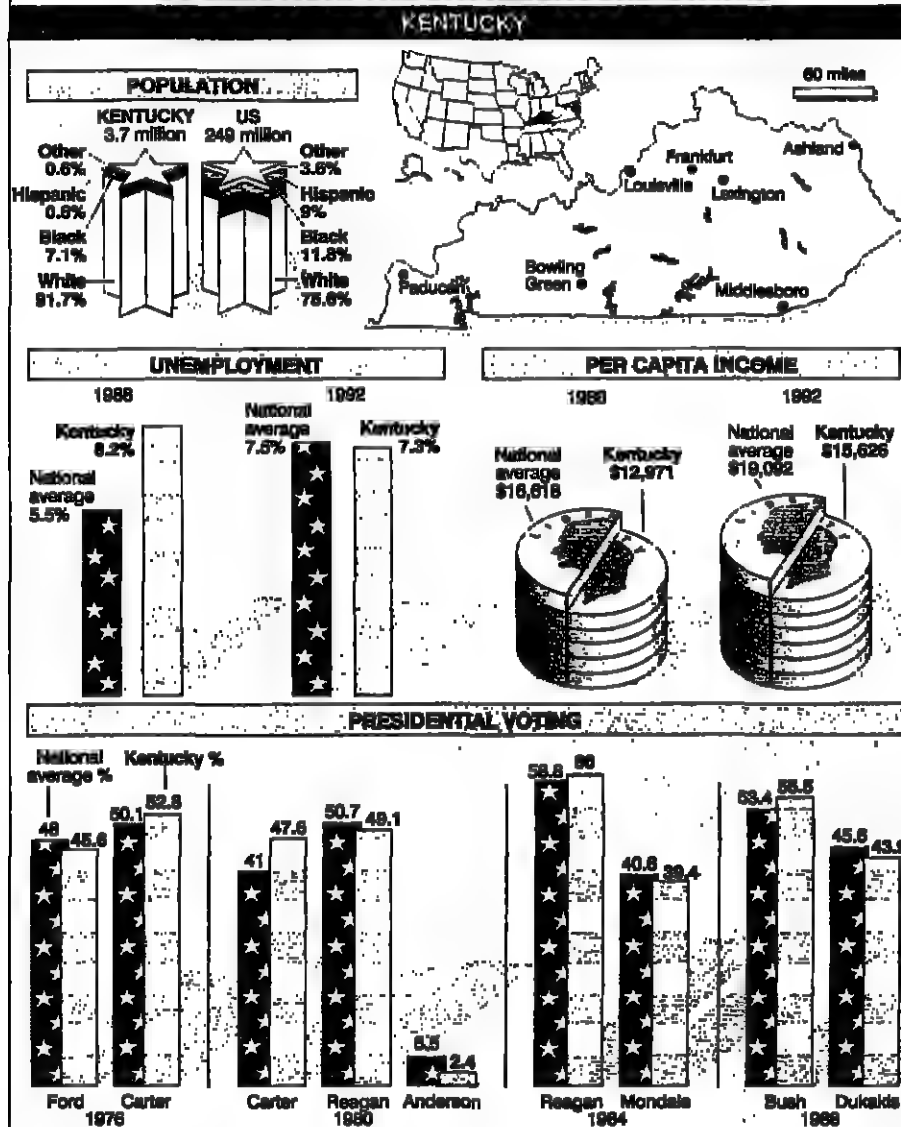
Buoyed by his success in Sunday's presidential debate, Mr Perot yesterday unveiled a 60-second commercial which continues to play on the Dallas billionaire's favourite theme, the national debt. He has received a boost from the debate, but pollsters say that his surge has come too late and that he will become marginalised in the final days before election day.

The Republicans are still hoping that Mr Perot's re-emergence will slow down the Clinton bandwagon. The Democrats are as yet unsure how to deal with Mr Perot but if his appeal grows, they may well start turning their guns on the Texan.



Marching through Georgia: Al Gore, Bill Clinton's running mate, saluting an Atlanta rally with wife Tipper, centre, and Hillary Clinton

US ELECTION: THE BATTLEGROUND STATES



Bluegrass Kentucky sees red over blueblood Bush

By JAMIE DETTMER IN LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

Al seemed well with the world. A naval glee club had just finished singing *The Star Spangled Banner*. The flag of the Union was fluttering at the top of the mast. The dirt race track had been raked, the grounds, dressed in green, sat astride their docile mounts ready to lead the feisty thoroughbreds and their diminutive jockeys into the starting gate. A portly man wearing a black top hat wet his lips and blew on a long hunting horn.

The signal for the start of the celebrated Fall Meeting of the races at Lexington's Keeneland track in the heart of Kentucky's Bluegrass country could hardly be heard above the chorus of "Hi ya, how are ya'll doing" emerging from the private boxes along the front of the limestone grandstand.

Gucci handbags swung here and there. Jewellery flashed in the bright autumn sun. English Barbour jackets and blazers and a hint of Scottish tweed completed the show. The proud members of central Kentucky's long-established families, the descendants of the original 18th-century pioneering land owners, greeted each other as though they had hardly a care in the world. In the distance, the manicured undulating landscape of white-fenced Bluegrass horse farms spoke of contentment and ease.

How could this territory be anything but Republican? But even here, among horse owners as obsessed with family bloodline as with the genealogy of their thoroughbreds, discontent with the Connecticut blueblood George Bush is mounting. Several of the younger crowd in the owners' boxes sported Clinton/Gore badges, signalling a defection that spelt possible doom for

■ The civil war is still being fought in the state and Reagan tax laws have deepened the political divide

the Republicans in Kentucky in November.

Earlier in the day, about 200 wealthy Lexingtonians attended a fundraiser for the Democratic presidential ticket. Fundraising has not been so easy for the Republicans. Among people whose sons are given names that could have come straight out of Victorian novels, like Brownell, Breckenridge, Bentley and Catesby, the Republican cause is floundering. Kentucky is a state of contrast. The mild climate and perfect soil of the Bluegrass country in the centre of the state has provided wealth for many in the thoroughbred industry.

But a short drive away east or west reveals a life lived at subsistence level on smallholdings and in mountain coalmining communities. For all the wealth in Lexington, Kentucky is one of the poorest states. Despite having officially backed the Union in the civil war, the border state of Kentucky is southern in feel and southern in politics. Tobacco is grown in all 87 counties of the Bluegrass state. It is still mostly rural.

As with the Deep South, politics here is still influenced by the civil war. Kentucky was split like no other state in the conflict. Both civil war presidents, Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis, were born in Kentucky, and the state is still, in the words of one historian, "caught in some

kind of time warp". The bitter legacy persists today and family feuds, especially in the mountains of east Kentucky, are still pursued.

Like other southern states, Lpostwar Kentucky became a Democrat fiefdom. But when the Democratic Party and its presidential candidate shifted to the left in the 1960s, Kentucky began to split its ticket and, while continuing to vote Democrat at state legislator and governor levels, returned Republicans in presidential contests. Jimmy Carter, a southerner, recaptured the state in 1976 but lost it to Ronald Reagan in 1980.

Now the signs are that Kentucky is preparing to ditch President Bush. According to a recent poll, Bill Clinton was holding a 5 per cent lead over Mr Bush.

"The Democrats are running here like they are on high sulphur coal," says Al Cross, a local journalist. "I see dwindling support for Bush here," says Paul Blanchard, a politics professor at the University of Eastern Kentucky.

Even Kentucky bluebloods are not immune from the economic bad times and they are warning the Republican administration. The thoroughbred industry has been hard hit.

Overexpansion and mismanagement can partly be blamed for the demise or auctioning off of some of the world's most famous stud farms, like Calumet and Spendthrift. But the problems were compounded when the last Reagan administration changed the tax laws and stopped the losses on race horses owned as secondary investments being written off against tax.

Foreign capitals braced for new White House face

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

DAVID Aaron, adviser to Bill Clinton on international affairs, visited Bonn recently to address a private think-tank seminar. Instead, he found himself summoned before senior government ministers to explain the foreign policy of what would be America's first Democrat administration in 12 years. Last week he visited Paris and exactly the same thing happened. Foreign governments have finally realised, he said, that George Bush may actually lose.

The prospect of a new government in Washington causes concern in many capitals. They have a natural bias towards continuity and predictability in American foreign policy, but Mr Clinton, who would be the first president with views shaped by Vietnam and not the second world war, is an anomaly.

When Mr Bush took office he had been American envoy in China, CIA director, and vice-president. He had visited 72 countries and was on first-name terms with half their leaders. By contrast Mr Clinton has studied international affairs at Georgetown University, spent two years at Oxford in the late 1960s, and made half a dozen overseas trade trips as Arkansas governor.

Pat Buchanan told the Republican convention that Mr Clinton's foreign policy experience consisted of "having had breakfast once at the International House of Pancakes". The joke would not have worked had it not contained a germ of truth.

Yet this is the man who would face the multiple headaches of a destabilised post-Cold war world, a spluttering global economy, the Bosnian conflict, trade disputes with Europe and Japan, a Middle East peace process at its most delicate stage, and an Iraqi dictator emboldened by the fall of his old enemy.

Since the spring, Mr Clinton has received more than a dozen in-depth briefings from experts on all important international problems. He gets daily summaries of interna-

kins University. Mr Clinton regularly consults more hawkish congressional experts such as Les Aspin, chairman of the House armed services committee, Sam Nunn, Mr Aspin's Senate counterpart, and Lee Hamilton and Stephen Solarz, senior members of the House foreign affairs committee.

Mr Clinton has made four main foreign policy speeches. He emphasises that rebuilding the American economy is his top foreign policy priority, but casts this in an internationalist, not isolationist, hue by arguing that only a strong America can play a proper leadership role in the world.

He casts himself as a free trader, but one who would fight harder for American economic interests. He promises new emphasis on international environmentalism and non-proliferation. Above all Mr Clinton pledges to do far more to encourage nascent democracies, accusing Mr Bush of "coddling tyrants" from Baghdad to Peking.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Student was pestered by Nobel winner

New York: Derek Walcott, 62, the Caribbean poet and playwright who won this year's Nobel Prize for Literature, was admonished by Harvard for a sexual approach to a female student. It emerged yesterday (James Bone writes).

He was accused by a first-year student of sexually harassing her while she took his poetry workshop at the university in 1981. Mr Walcott said: "I have never commented about the incident at Harvard. While I accept there was a justifiable basis for the complaint... my own conscience has dealt with the matter."

Aid expelled

Mogadishu: Followers of the former Somali president, Mohamed Siad Barre, captured the southern town of Bardere yesterday and drove General Muhammad Farah Aidid, his rival, from his headquarters. UN officials said. (Reuters)

Quebec debate

Ottawa: Robert Bourassa, the premier of Quebec, advocating integration of his province with Canada under proposed constitutional reform, got the better of Jacques Parizeau, the separatist leader, in a televised debate. observers said.

Party splits

Nairobi: Kenya's main opposition party, the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy, has split, increasing President Moi's hopes in multiparty elections next March. (Reuters)

Patten push

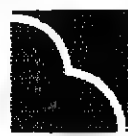
Hong Kong: Chris Patten, the governor, stepped up pressure on China to approve Hong Kong's proposed new airport, saying the colony would have a second-rate facility if forced to build it alone. (Reuters)

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Muslim fundamentalists regard the Egyptian earthquake as divine retribution for Cairo corruption

Mubarak flies back to political fallout

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN CAIRO

PRESIDENT Mubarak cut short a visit to China and flew back to Cairo last night as the earthquake death toll rose above the 400 mark. Thousands camped out on the road to the airport preparing to flee the country as rumours of aftershocks abounded.

The city was in a state of shock as its 12 million inhabitants struggled to cope with the implications of the country's worst earthquake which, because of mass hysteria and shoddy building, killed many more than such a medium-sized tremor should have done. The first to make political capital were the Islamic extremists who have been mounting a growing challenge to President Mubarak. They began circulating the damning message in the most overcrowded and badly hit areas that the damage was the wrath of Allah inflicted on a corrupt administration.

At the Asmeih school in the suburb of Shubra, amid Hogarthian scenes of scavenging dogs and sinking, half-burnt rubbish tips, panic-stricken children yesterday told how 34 of their number had been killed and another 67 injured in a mass stampede as the quake struck shortly after 3pm on Monday.

"The teachers panicked and then ran away, telling everyone else to do the same," said Salem, 12, as he stood outside the school which, like all those run by the state, has been closed for 72 hours. "The children were trampled to death. It was a terrible sight."

Other children gathered outside the locked metal gates of the three-storey building pointed out to me the obvious that it was still standing, with broken windows about the only structural damage apparent. "The building shook. Everybody ran and that is why they were killed," said Muhammad Ashraf, in his thirties. The cowardly behaviour of the teachers has angered

Protests against the government are in the offing after the disaster that highlighted the rich-poor divide

many residents of a district where Muslim fundamentalists have been winning support. One man predicted that, within weeks, it would lead to street protests against the government, which is being blamed for the lax regulations that allowed so many land-lords to get away with poorly constructed buildings, contravening all regulations. "The teachers should have been looking after our children, not running away," Mr. Ashraf declared.

The divisions in Egyptian society between rich and poor, so effectively exploited by the fundamentalists, have been widened by the earthquake which scarred the poor areas of the sprawling city while leaving most of the affluent districts relatively untouched, with the exception of Helwan, where a 14-storey building crashed to the ground. "It was a tale of two cities with some exceptions. The have-nots have been reminded more forcibly than ever that they live in different circumstances than the better-off Cairenes," one diplomat said.

While Egyptian classes were halted, lectures at the American University of Cairo resumed yesterday despite a government order that all schools and universities be checked for structural faults. At the British International School, teachers behaved impeccably during the tremor.

Even those Cairo residents who yesterday tried to go about business as usual appeared unusually subdued. "What has been most obvious of all is that since the earthquake, people have almost stopped honking their car horns," said Lucy Horner, 22.

an English nanny working in the suburb of Zamalek. "Cairo sounds like a different city." In an attempt to defuse popular discontent, Atef Sidki, the prime minister, announced a grant of 500 Egyptian pounds (\$9) for each death and a further 200 pounds for each injury. The sums might sound paltry to outsiders but they have to be related to the average monthly pay of an Egyptian civil servant estimated at 150 pounds.

As parents queued with a touch of fatalism to collect the cash payments, the red tape of Egyptian bureaucracy blamed for many of the results of the quake was once again in evidence. A group of officials, gathered in the garden of the Nile Hospital, told Sayid Radwan, 43, a factory worker who lost his daughter, Fatma, that he should have stayed the day before to claim his cash. They then sent him back inside the building to secure two more signatures on his compensation form.

Disaster scene, page 1



Grim mission: rescuers yesterday checking through the remains of a building wrecked in the Cairo earthquake. Seismologists gave a warning that the city could suffer a series of damaging aftershocks

Experts say aftershocks are likely

BY NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

SEISMOLOGISTS yesterday said Cairo could suffer a series of potentially damaging aftershocks following the earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale.

The last earthquake to strike the Egyptian capital was in August 1847. It measured 6.8 and was centred in the same spot as Monday's tremors at el-Fayum, about 18 miles southwest of Cairo, killing about 100 people.

Monday's earthquake happened at a depth of about six to nine miles and is suspected to have been caused by drifting of the Arabian and African tectonic plates, a boundary of seismic activity along the Jordanian rift valley.

Nicholas Ambraseys of Imperial College, an expert on the risks of earthquakes, said the quake could hardly be described as a big one. The high death toll in Cairo is due to parts of the city being built on weak sedimentary soils.

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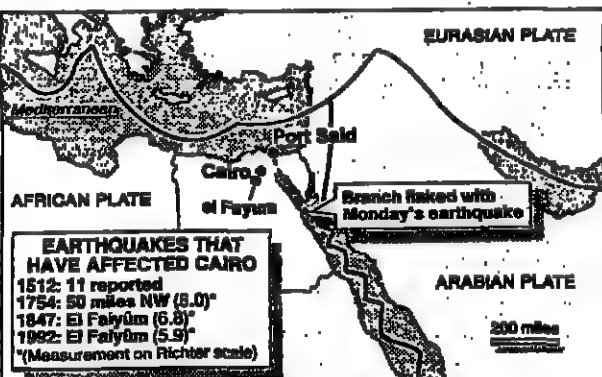
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Reprisals terrorise Kashmir

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN BATAKOT

THE fruit-growing village of Batakot in Kashmir has buried its dead after a visit by the Indian army which appears to have been a reprisal attack for the killing of a soldier earlier that day by Islamic gunmen.

The incident on October 1, in which fields and houses were razed and women were raped, was not an isolated one. In most areas of the Kashmir valley, burnt-out houses and shops stand testimony to the tactics of the army and paramilitary police. New reports appeared in the local press yesterday of rapes and burnings in the village of Sadapora Chak, 30 miles south of Srinagar, the capital.

The security forces are not alone in making life hell in Kashmir. Militant separatist groups compete to exercise power, closing shops, ordering women to wear the veil, and organising strikes.

Human rights abuses by the militants are widespread: hundreds of people have been shot dead simply on suspicion of being informers, extortion rackets proliferate, and women have been raped by gunmen.

The Islamisation of Kashmir is resented by almost everybody. Pakistan's involvement in the three-year uprising is obvious despite Islamabad's denials. The separatist campaign is now dominated by Hizbul Islami (Party of Holy Warriors), which has close ties with the fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami in Pakistan.

Botha tries to pacify Savimbi

FROM SAM KILEY
IN LUANDA

SOUTH Africa's foreign affairs minister, R. F. "Pik" Botha flew to Jonas Savimbi's stronghold in Huambo, central Angola, yesterday to try to persuade the former guerrilla leader to withdraw his threats to return to civil war in protest over Angola's stalled elections.

But as he did so, gunfire raged across Luanda overnight and Unita (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) troops mobilised in several provinces. At least two people died in street gunbattles between police and Unita.

Mr Botha's flight to the regional capital where Dr Savimbi has gathered senior commanders to prepare for a return to war, comes after pressure from African and Western countries on the South Africans to use their long relationship with Dr Savimbi to "calm his nerves".

Dr Savimbi's relationship with the Americans, who backed him during his 16-year civil war against the Angolan government, has deteriorated. The South Africans may be the only ones who can persuade him of the alternatives to war.

While Mr Botha was engaged in his mission, diplomats in Luanda were trying to persuade the Angolan National Electoral Council and the government of President dos Santos to delay publication of the results until Unita's allegations of fraud had been investigated.

The council had been expected to reach a decision on publication yesterday but provisional results from about 85 per cent of voters have shown that Mr dos Santos's Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola was set to win both the presidential and legislative races by about 14 per cent.

Publisher
30 employees - health scheme and health screening programmeTransport and distribution company
70 employees - health scheme, mobile screening and occupational health servicesComputer company
200 employees, health scheme, wellman and wellwoman screening, and occupational health

3

[illegible]



Bryan Appleyard

Madonna's over-hyped vision of sex is the erotic fantasy of the old not the young

At least the pressure is off Lamentable, The Grey One and the pound. Madonna is in town and who cares about those guys? Ms Ciccone is here to sell *Sex*, a book of photographs, for £25 a shot. She will not be obliged to leave small cards with line drawings in telephone boxes since the tabloids, the *Observer* magazine and, okay, this column are all happy to announce her availability — in bookshops at least. I suspect a furtive call to her suite at the Hyde Park Hotel will not get you far with the lady.

The odd thing about all this is not the phenomenon of Madonna herself — there have been naughty pop stars before and others will at this moment be strutting angrily at the bars of their cots — but the product she is selling. For her marketing of sex is but the leading edge of an erotic imagery explosion of an unprecedented intensity and explicitness. I was, for example, sitting, dozing, in a taxi when I opened my eyes to find my entire field of vision filled with the crotch of Naomi Campbell, a model. She was on the side of a bus and advertising Gap clothes, most vividly their denim shorts. Any suspicion that we were not supposed to be looking at her crotch was laid to rest by the fact that both her hands were driven into that vertex.

The day before, while killing time before a movie, I had idly wandered into an Athena shop in Leicester Square. This chain made its name by selling reproductions of paintings, but now, I would guess, at least half of its product lines are what would once have been called pornographic. Calendars, postcards, games and toys worked a series of variations on the basic theme.

The British Heart Foundation advertises the possibility of recovery from heart attacks by showing a middle-aged couple happily cuddling in bed. The message is that life can rapidly return to normal — specifically sex life can return to normal. "And, yes," reads the copy, "start having sex again." The couple's bliss is intended to be post-coital. Why telling people what can be ascertained by a simple question to their doctor should be regarded as a good way of raising funds for the BHF is at first baffling. But the simple strategy at once becomes clear: sex, even in this soppy, domesticated form, is the one sure way the advertisers can think of to hook people into paying attention.

Finally, at the lowest cost end of the scale, a bookshop in the Charing Cross Road advertises "Poppers for Sale". They are advertising the works of the philosopher Karl Popper. But, in this part of town, poppers usually mean amyl nitrate, a legally available heart stimulant snuffed to increase the intensity of the sexual experience. Clearly, it is thought that consumers of the falsifiability hypothesis will be up to speed on the refinements of the retailing of sex across the road in Soho.

No marketing or advertising men have sat down and planned this obsessive wave of erotic reference. Indeed, it has scarcely been noted as a distinct phenomenon but for a brief flurry of interest inspired by the Haagen-Dazs campaign, a high-contrast riot of monochrome writing to the accompaniment of melting ice cream. Otherwise it has happened silently and almost overnight. Advertisers, when asked, appear nonplussed. Escape from the grim facts of recession is mentioned as a possible explanation. But this is a little threadbare, anything could be so explained and all advertising aspires to be an escape from something.

Slightly more credible is the idea that sex is being distanced in response to the fear of Aids. The BHF advertisement apart, this material invites us to enjoy sex purely as fantasy. It happens in a distinct, dreamy realm, a message reinforced by the prevalent employment of black and white photography. In Athena's games and gags and in the bookshop, the sheer ease, familiar jokiness emphasises that all this is not real, not urgent, not lethal.

But young people, I am told, are not simply dreaming, they are out there doing it. For them the pervasive erotic imagery must inspire another anxiety — the anxiety of being required to perform, to live up to this sumptuous sexual paradise. In a limited way advertisers have responded to this. Posters later, for example, ran a parody of the Haagen-Dazs campaign in which the boy breaks off from wishing to grab a tinny from the fridge, only to be distracted from his panting girlfriend by a football match on television. Males were being told it was all right, in fact rather cool and smart, not to live up to these glossy, high fashion standards. They could, instead, flee to the less demanding mores of an imaginary Australia.

Perhaps Posters have identified something that most middle-aged advertising and marketing executives have missed: that the sexually-anxious young are made secretly uneasy by this erotic deluge. And that leads me to the explanatory theory I find most attractive. The very unreality of these fantasies, Madonna's included, points to a controlling hand that is not young but old. These are the dreams of 40 to 50-year-olds who have glimpsed that all this excitement may be fading into memories. They find it safe to surround us with erotica because, to them, it is becoming a poignant rather than an urgent matter. In addition, of course, they could not conceive of finding anything wrong or disturbing in the phenomenon because they were young in the Sixties when they had, at all costs, to let it all hang out. This is an appealing theory because it means this craze might soon end. Madonna is hardly in her first flush and the corporate mid-life crisis of the advertising industry will pass. But, of course, this too is probably a dream, a longing for a sweet, old-fashioned world of furtive, lurking, infinitely more erotic suppression.

Victoria Glendinning, chairman of the Booker judges, explains their decision to split the £20,000 award

A prize too close to call

I have heard of a Booker panel taking 15 minutes to reach a decision. We took every minute that God, or rather the schedule, gave. All the six books were strongly in play for a long, long time. The fact that we decided to share the prize between Barry Unsworth and Michael Ondaatje reflects the passion of feeling among the judges for both these books. We checked our passions, if passions can be checked, by revoting by means of proportional representation like the Eurovision Song Contest: Luxembourg *nuls points*. The result was equal points for Ondaatje and Unsworth. We were all I think rather glad.

The dynamics of a group are weird. From where I sat it was as if there were an invisible but determining sixth judge (and I don't mean Maryn Goff, some kind of a dissipation of all five of us). There were sharp exchanges and eruptions and gasps and groans, but not rows exactly, which may be a disappointment to you. We were all extremely different.

John Coldstream never said a word too much, and never a word that was not to the point. Valentine Cunningham could have blinded the rest of us with critical theory, but in his mercy did not. Also he was very funny, as was Mark Lawson — funny and vehement. Strong gut-reaction dislikes can affect the outcome just as much as eloquent advocacy in favour. Harriet Harvey-Wood was always calm, and sure of what she felt.

What made me most angry was the opinion of one newspaper that Michele Roberts was on the shortlist as a token woman. Yet there is a problem about some novels by women which I would like to face. Gifted women novelists have tended to write principally about the private life of the emotions because in the past that was the only life they got to know about. And, as the sub-

merged half of the population, it was essential that they did write about it and develop everything that Virginia Woolf implied about matter and manner by her phrase "the female sentence".

But we have served that sentence. Rummaging in the emotional handbag is no longer quite enough. Male writers have learnt from women to rummage in their own, for a start. Emotional handbags are a unisex option. I have no idea what post-feminism is meant to mean, but I hope it means that we have equipped ourselves to join the wider world. Martina Navratilova plays Jimmy Connors these days.

This is my feeling only, we did not talk about it on the panel. But in this year's Booker, it was those writers who may have addressed domestic or private troubles but in the context of

outside, public concerns who most impressed all of us.

The Booker prize works, as if by magic, but nothing is perfect. You cannot go through the process which I and my fellow-judges have gone through and not have some pretty strong responses to what goes on. Some of us were feeling, before Andrew Motion voiced the same idea in *The Observer*, that a list should be published of all the novels submitted to the Booker panel.

Most publishers resist this idea, fearing embarrassment or worse with their non-entered authors. But as it is authors may be flattered but humiliatedly misled into thinking that their novel has been entered, and we get ludicrous press complaints about why so-and-so is not on the shortlist when so-and-so was never entered in the race.

Some of us feel, given the quantitative differences between publishers' lists, that proportional representation might be better than three novels per house. Some feel that the call-in list should be scrapped, which would concentrate publishers' minds wonderfully — though if we had done no call-ins this year we would have had less fun. Two were comic novels and one a crime novel, and they climbed pretty high in our listings.

Some of us wonder why publishers enter novels that are flagrant no-hopers — maybe they do not trust their own judgment, or the judges' judgment, but they do not enhance their firm's reputation by putting in third-rate books.

I do not know how this year's shortlisted novelists feel about it, but some of us think that this business of keeping the winner secret until the last moment is

unreasonable. The bookmakers would just have to close their books at noon on judgment day, and the six could be tipped off privately just before the dinner. That would give them time to arrange their faces, and even the non-winners might manage to enjoy the evening.

All authors are clinically insane off and on when they have a new book out. To add to that the hideous pressure of coming to a televised dinner, not knowing whether they have won or not seems, certainly to me, to be sadistic, and I do not really see what purpose it serves. It makes an intolerable ordeal, for the principals, out of what should be a celebration both of the winner or winners and the runners-up.

Booker publicity is fed by only one thing: violent dissension and personal vituperation, or the rumours of it. In that respect we have been a failure, though it seems like success to us. We have great winners in Ondaatje and Unsworth. This was not, I must stress, a compromise decision.

How Italy gets by on a song and a prayer

Simon Jenkins in Rome on a land cheating the doom mongers

A British delegation flew to Rome on Monday to brief the Italians on subsidiarity before Friday's climactic Birmingham summit. Subsidiarity? In Rome at present? To the quivering Amato government, any offer to give it more power from Brussels must seem a curious English joke. It hardly knows how to wield such power as it has.

Visitors to Rome these days are grimly inverting the Grand Tour. They perambulate the ruins and the awful traffic of the Incomparable City. They gasp at the overvalued currency. They hear of corruption on all sides. They read of fascist stormclouds gathering in the north. They flee from Fiumicino airport saying that if this is the van of European enthusiasm, forget it. All the Italians want from Europe is "a better hole".

But there have always been two views of Italian crises, the cataclysmic and the laconic, the *drammatica ma non seriosa*. I support the latter view, and claim post-war history on my side. But the cataclysmic is now dominant. Like Oscar Wilde's fall of the rupee, it is certainly more sensational.

The cataclysmics, including most of the British press, have Italy perpetually "on the brink" of something, though usually nothing worse than a mixed metaphor. The Amato government is in a dark tunnel on the way to the last chance saloon. The national debt has outstripped the gross domestic product, an event of symbolic horror. A million workers must be sacked. Once-proud Milan is mired in the Craxi corruption scandal. The lira is 20 per cent down against the mark. The mafia murders at will, financed by drug money and unpoliced Euro-subsidies.

At this point, the cataclysmics become wild and staring. Should the government fall,

they cry, as fall it always does, a cast of Fellini characters is hovering in the wings: the Red Brigades, the far right, Signor Bossi's Northern Leagues, the mafia, the managers of various football clubs, newspapers, opera houses. All threaten to march on Rome, Mussolini-style, and devastate it with yet more metaphors. A paroxysm in this week's *Economist* had Italy poised on a precipice over an abyss above a fault line amid a deluge. Small wonder some Italians see Maastricht as a preferable fall.

What Italy most needs now is a society for the suppression of metaphors. The above snippets from recent press reports are equal and opposite to the rubbish I remember reading about Italy in the mid-1980s. Statistics then trumpeted *il sorpasso*, a renaissance in which Italy leapt ahead of Britain to become the world's fifth most powerful economy. The old politics had at last achieved take off. Italy was rich. The statistics proved it. Statistics cannot lie.

Statistics lied. *Il sorpasso* was achieved by Rome adding a casual 12 per cent to its gross domestic product to allow for the notorious — or famous — black economy. Why 12 per cent? Well, it seemed big enough to be significant but not so big as to undermine the credibility of the total. And it neatly put Italy ahead of Britain. As the Treasury knows, statistics are politics not science.

Nobody has any idea of the size of Italy's black economy. Any business done with an Italian reveals it as merely big, very big. It embraces much of tourism, construction, property, narcotics, as well as the backhanders prevalent in every crisis and profession. Vast sums change hands beyond the reach of taxation or registration. The totals may rise or they may fall, offering wealth and em-



ployment to millions. Without any official noticing, Italy's black economy could be a great political safety valve, or a timebomb. The conundrum is insoluble. An Italian statistic conveys even less than a British inflation one. Like Bishop Berkeley's tree, its reality lies only in the mind of its perceiver.

Ask an Italian about the latest crisis and he will reel off its familiar components: cynicism towards politicians, soaring public debt and uncompetitive industry. This unholy trinity has

flitted above the Apennines as long as I have visited Italy. "Ah," says the cataclysmic, "but it is worse this time!" It always is. Nobody has yet come up with an economic or political model that explains why time and again the Italian equilibrium cheats the prophets of doom — except perhaps the anarchists.

Here is a rare developed country in which tolerant, democratic, prosperous citizens go about their business without regard for government, except as butt of an occasional sneer.

The public sector is huge, its extent imprecise, corrupt, unimportant except as the generator of debt. It operates on a separate plane from the economic activity of the nation, yet the balance between private endeavour and public squalour appears enduring.

As throughout history, outsiders are the greatest threat to such an equilibrium. The most dangerous outsider at present is the belief that Europe, in whatever guise, can save Italy from itself, assuming it needs saving.

So far, the EC has played a stabilising role in Italian politics. It gave commerce a new outward ambition. Money flowed from Brussels. To despised politicians, the EC offered both a glamorous new stage and a blessed distraction from the crushing task of creating a disciplined democracy at home. The EC still has the character of a political cargo cult in Italy. The Northern Leagues cry, "the bondage of Brussels is better than the bondage of Rome". Why govern, when a foreigner will govern for you? We are back in the Charterhouse of Parma.

It is thus possible that those new *condottieri*, the statisticians, might produce a convergence package that does not just cook the books but inflicts truly devastating deflation and poverty. Politicians, old and new, might indeed use Maastricht's economic and monetary union as a short-term discipline, rather than push ahead with domestic reform. This could be counterproductive. Italy is now a net contributor to EC funds. How long before Italians join the French and Germans and begin to see Europe as the subject of the same scorn they visit on their domestic leaders?

Democracies that leave external forces to make their hardest choices tend to suffer for it. Italy's equilibrium is not under fundamental threat, its joints are still oiled. The old parties, both Christian Democrat and Socialist, have reacted to the Lombard League with a vigorous bout of housecleaning. Next year, constitutional reform may give more power to the president and executive. Public sector austerity is clearly on the cards.

But this is cataclysmic talk. I imagine Italy's politicians can still do what they like and be greeted with a shrug. There is no country which treats both triumph and disaster as such imposters. Rome's gloriously restored Trevi can flow with Frascati, and somebody somewhere will fix whatever needs fixing, for a price, some day. The only real nonsense I ever encounter in Italy is the one that claims the country is now no different from the rest of Europe. It will always be that, thank goodness, a nation dramatic but not serious.

Never darken my doors...

THE bitter family feud at Longleat House, raging since the sixth Marquess of Bath died last July, has taken a further twist. The new marquess has ordered his younger brother to be off the estate by Christmas Eve.

An angry showdown is expected between the brothers when the marquess returns from a holiday in St Tropez tomorrow. In July, only one week after inheriting the 16th-century 140-room stately home and safari park, the marquess sacked his brother, Lord Christopher Thynne, as estate controller.

Thynne, 57, who ran the estate for 20 years, is devastated by the latest edict from his brother. He has already moved, temporarily at least, from his home, The Hermitage, at Horningham on the edge of the Wiltshire estate. Thynne is currently staying in a house owned by his wife, Lady Antonia, in Quenington, near Cirencester. "This is all very difficult," he says. "I hope to resolve it when my brother returns. It is too painful to comment. I just hope I will be

allowed to stay there." The notice to quit was conveyed to him by the estate solicitors but the couple propose to fight the eviction order. "Obviously we hope to stay in our home," says Lady Antonia. "We love it. It is not over but we are not in contact with my brother-in-law so we cannot be sure what is happening."

Two years ago the 6th marquess predicted problems between the brothers on his death. "When I go Christopher will be sacked. Alexander (the new Lord Bath) will not have him working for him."

Longleat is the setting for a new John Cleese television comedy, to be shown in the new year. The title? *Heirs and Graces*.

●The Shadow Cabinet meets today to discuss how to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Bryan Gould. Under party rules a by-election should be held but several members will argue that Ron Davies, the agriculture spokesman and the runner-up in the full ballot, should automatically be promoted. John Smith is believed to favour a further ballot in which he hopes George Robertson, the second runner-up, will succeed. The promotion of Davies, however, would con-



DIARY

niently solve one problem for Smith: the question of whom he should make shadow heritage secretary. As a son of the valleys Davies would be perfectly suited as shadow Welsh secretary, allowing Smith to give Gould's old job to Ann Clwyd. As a former journalist and BBC employee, not to mention a six-year spell on the Arts Council, there are few better qualified than Clwyd.

Shock horror

MORE bad news for John Major. Having broken both the story about David Mellor's affair with Antonia de Sancta and the former heritage secretary's holiday with Monica Bavens, Bill Hagerty is the last editor Downing Street wants to see on the Press Complaints Commission.

Yet Hagerty, editor of *The People*, whose scoops on Mellor have generated the loudest calls

for a new privacy law from Tory MPs, is about to join the industry's self-regulatory body.

Hagerty was spotted at the RAC Club last week lunching with Lord McGregor of Durris, the commission chairman, and an invitation to join was on the menu. Hagerty is expected to replace Patsy Chapman, editor of the *News of the World*, who is standing down in the new year. Today the commission holds a special meeting to consider its response to the Calcutt review, which is due to report to Peter Brooke, the heritage secretary, by Christmas.

None of the submissions he receives is likely to match the one from Chapman at the *News of the World*. She has produced a four-page dummy edition of her paper which spells out with lurid headlines and a "spot the complaint" competition why there is no need to legislate against the press.

●As the Queen visits Westminster Abbey today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Montgomery's victory at El Alamein, those in the choir will have particular cause to remember the field marshal. Montgomery first became involved with the abbey choir in 1947 when he met the then organist Sir William McKie after a Sunday morning service. The desert commander asked if there was anything he could do to help the choir. "Certainly," replied McKie, "please give us back our choir school". Within two weeks a reluctant War Office had vacated premises in Dean's Yard and the school was re-established. To this day the senior chorister wears a "Montgomery" medal.

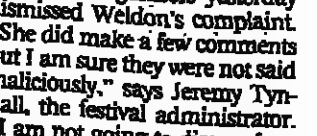
The devil to pay

DESPITE reputedly earning £200,000 per novel, Fay Weldon, the hugely successful author of *She Devil*, thinks she is underpaid. After reading extracts from her latest untitled novel to a captive audience of 500 at the Cheltenham Literary Festival, Weldon protested: "Tickets for my reading were £4 and that means people paid £2,000 to see me. So how come I was only paid £100?" Weldon, who has had two

books televised this year, says: "I know all the arguments about some events having to subsidise other ones at the festival, but I'm not sure I approve of it being me who should do the subsidising. I doubt whether they would ask the cleaners and catering staff to subsidise the festival."

Festival organisers yesterday dismissed Weldon's complaint. "She did make a few comments but I am sure they were not said maliciously," says Jeremy Tynan, the festival administrator. "I am not going to discuss fees. But we are a charity and do not make money." Richard Cohen, the festival director, however, has offered to show Weldon a copy of the accounts, including payments to the cleaners.

Someone to see you



REMAK

The new world



A BLACK DAY FOR COAL

■ The closure of pits could still be avoided

Government and public spent a year battling to break the hold of Arthur Scargill's miners over the power industry. There were famous political gains from Margaret Thatcher's victory. There were also some less heralded industrial benefits, the turning of British Coal into the most efficient and lowest-cost in Europe. The industrial benefits seem dimmer now. The industrial gains, judged by the pit closures announced yesterday, have been allowed to vanish almost entirely.

The probable elimination of up to half British Coal's output, to be replaced by imports or by exportable gas, is not some sad but inevitable product of competitive market forces. It is a direct result of the botched privatisation of the electricity industry. The coal business, which had few political supporters after the strike, was deliberately left out of the scheme pushed through by Lords Parkinson and Wakeham. Their twin brief for electricity was to safeguard nuclear power and to promote competition in generating.

Nuclear generation has been protected at a cost to consumers of £1.3 billion a year. As for effective competition, this was introduced only at the margins of the business, with the bizarre effect of raising prices to consumers and to industry and penalising coal.

New entrants to the generation of electricity, some under the protection of monopoly distribution companies, vied with National Power and PowerGen to build gas-fired plants. When conceived, these provided the cheapest way to expand capacity. The boom will, however, lead to excess capacity, exacerbated by the recession.

In a truly competitive market, that should bring cheaper electricity at the expense of low returns on investment. PowerGen and National Power are, however, able to resist that by closing coal-fired power stations to keep prices up, while cosy deals by some of the distribution monopolies will leave room for their linked gas stations to run at full tilt at the expense of coal generators. So instead of consumers reaping the benefit of excess

capacity and the generators bearing the cost, consumers will get nothing and the coal industry has been set up as the victim.

Heavy pit closures are now inevitable but the government could still limit the damage. Its first action should be to scrap the coal contract negotiations and start again. The contracts have shown up the artificiality of competition. The electricity industry has effectively acted in concert. British Coal should be allowed to use its own countervailing market power, insisting on much longer contracts without any ludicrous clause that will allow generators time to build capacity to import half their coal in order to cut their consumption of British coal later.

The power industry's regulatory regime should also be changed to remove its bias against the predictable fixed prices that British Coal can now offer. Imported coal is much cheaper now, just as gas prices were before demand rose, but changes in exchange rates and world energy prices might well alter that sum over the lifetime of power stations. Consumers take the risk because most increases in world energy prices can be passed on to them. If the regulator were to prohibit such passing on, generators would have to take the risk of fluctuations in exchange rates. That would make domestic coal, whose price in pounds will remain stable, more attractive.

Distributors were allowed to become involved in generation to increase competition for the two big generators, but their entry, perversely, is stifling the workings of the market by protecting some of the new gas-fired power stations. Distributors should be banned from owning stakes in generators. At the same time, the government should challenge the deal just approved by the European Commission for massive German subsidies to its high-cost coal industry, which closes British Coal's best export opportunity.

Government put the coal industry into this mess. Ritual wringing of hands is not an adequate response.

THE RANKING OF UNIVERSITIES

■ Academe must open up its books

Vice-chancellors have been uncharacteristically quick to dismiss the rankings of *The Good University Guide*, which we published on Monday and Tuesday. Many of those complaining most loudly about misleading and inaccurate figures were much slower to respond when they were asked to confirm the information used in compiling the guide. In some quarters there was more interest in trying to sabotage the exercise than to ensure its accuracy. The vice-chancellors' own statistics, published yesterday, were hedged with patronising warnings that only those in the know could be trusted to draw conclusions from 200 inaccessible pages of tables.

Our guide was intended to meet the need for an easily understandable analysis of the battery of information now available to those who know where to look. On some points of comparison, this involved trawling through prospectuses and development plans to unearth information that the universities themselves seem not to know is there.

University rankings have been published in America for more than a decade. After initial opposition, they have become accepted as a useful source of information for students faced with hundreds of universities competing for their favours. Universities jockey for position in the tables. Until now, Britain has been different: outside Oxford and Cambridge, a university degree has carried much the same weight, whatever its source.

That is bound to change. The promotion of the polytechnics has brought the number of universities close to 100. Prospective students are hard pressed to know where De Montfort University is, let alone how it matches up to Strathclyde or Brunel.

The guide was always likely to attract

criticism, especially from those at the bottom of the table. The former polytechnics find themselves in this position for largely historical reasons. They have never been funded for research and, having taken the lead in opening up higher education, their entry standards are generally lower than those in the traditional universities. Rather than trying to obscure the obvious, they should use the public illustration of these truths to press for equal treatment to their older rivals. The new universities' change of status was richly deserved but, now that it has been secured and the pomp and ceremony is over, they must expect to be judged against the best.

League tables are anathema to many in the education world. Oxford was as keen to be rid of the Norrington Table as the schools were reluctant to satisfy the government on their examination results. But at a time when citizens are demanding openness and governments are offering charters, universities cannot escape the obligation to be more transparent about their affairs. In the words of Adam Smith, "the discipline of colleges and universities is in general contrived, not for the benefit of the students, but for the interest, or more properly speaking, for the ease of the masters." The reaction of the vice-chancellors suggests little has changed since those words were written.

As the first attempt at a British ranking, *The Times* guide inevitably has rough edges, which will be smoothed out in subsequent years. The universities would command more respect from the many readers who feel bewildered by the new higher education system if they helped to improve the rankings, rather than trying to stop them appearing. If obstruction is their aim, it will fail.

REMAKING THE PLANET

■ The new world needs new maps, and now has them

Mankind has invented three great forms of communication: language, music and mapping. But by far the oldest of the three is mapping. Millennia before the first farmers began tilling the fields, or solacing themselves with their inchoate nose flutes and other musical instruments, prehistoric hunters were mapping their terrain with scratches on stone or bone. Pacific islanders made sense of their watery world with charts made from ribs of palm leaves arranged in a lattice to indicate the direction of prevailing currents and winds, using shells to mark the distant islands on which life depended. Maps were a matter of life and death.

The world has moved on, and become better charted. But it still will not stand still. Tomorrow the ninth edition of *The Times Atlas of the World* is published to describe our planet as it is today as well as is humanly possible with the powerful new skills of mapping satellites and megabyte computers. The atlas is half as old as the paper itself, and as unique in its own medium of communication as *The Times* is with news and words. After the first world war, Lord Northcliffe, then proprietor of *The Times* and its atlas, launched the second edition of the atlas with the declaration: "A world remade must be a world remapped."

The ninth edition describes a world that has been remade even more radically. This

is a work rich with geographical changes, 18 new countries, starting from the loss of one (the reunification of Germany), leading to the death of communism (15 new states have taken the place of the former Soviet Union) and the emergence of new states in what used to be Yugoslavia.

Huge political events have shifted the geographical frontiers and the place names of the world. Leningrad has reverted to Saint-Petersburg, and Gorky to Nizhny Novgorod; Andropov, Brezhnev and Chernenko have been wiped off the map; the Baltics are shown as independent states, and so, in the Sturm und Drang of human intervention in geography, are Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The satellite and computer eyes of modern cartography also record such lesser changes as the shrinkage of the Aral Sea, from whose unpolluted floor the new-bathed stars once emerged, at the time of the first edition of the atlas, to new motorways such as the M40, carving up the unspoiled skin of the globe, but reducing the spin from London up to Birmingham. Geography is no longer the sole queen of the arts and sciences, as it was for Palaeolithic hunters and Pacific paddlers. But these terrestrial changes seem real and misleadingly permanent only when charted by man's oldest and continually updating medium of communication.

Identity cards: a halfway option

From Mr Philip Redfern

Sir, In response to calls for a national identity (ID) card made at the Conservative conference (report, October 8) the Home Secretary, Kenneth Clarke, said that the threat to liberty posed by cards was no longer seen as the major obstacle to introducing them. That view is in line with the public's response to recent surveys.

Mr Clarke rightly added that the case for ID cards had to be made in terms of the help they might give the police in combating crime. On the same day Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social Services, pledged action to crack down on social security fraud, for example multiple applications under different names.

The two issues are directly linked, and a full-blown ID scheme is not the only option: the half-way house of a population register may be preferable.

Much fraud, tax evasion, impersonation and illegal immigration stems from our way of identifying a person: we ask him or her for a name and perhaps address or date of birth — a uniquely primitive method in the Western world. Unwittingly, or sometimes wittingly, people do not report these particulars accurately or consistently, and public agencies have no reliable register for checking identities.

The Lindop committee (1978) apparently approved of this lax situation and spoke of "the British citizen's traditional anonymity". The remedy is to assign to each individual one personal identity number (PIN) to be used by all public agencies, and perhaps by other agencies fighting fraud, such as banks.

That requires a population register, which preferably should also hold up-to-date addresses, as most registers in Europe do and as indeed our wartime national register did. The citizen's regular use of his PIN in dealings with public agencies and their routine checking of it would ensure a high-quality register.

Many countries have a population register without requiring their citizens to hold ID cards, thus averting the friction which may be caused by police demands to see them. With or without them, the register would help ministers to meet important policy objectives in such areas as immigration control and the administration of the council tax.

The frequently advanced argument that costs are a main obstacle to the introduction of ID cards takes insufficient account of the gains through reduced benefit fraud and tax evasion. The time is ripe for the government to evaluate the matter in line with last year's recommendation from the House of Commons home affairs committee.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP REDFERN
(Deputy Director,
Office of Population Censuses
and Surveys, 1970-82),
17 Fulwith Close,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire,
October 9.

Criminal Justice Act

From Mr Michael Burdett

Sir, On October 5 an inner-London magistrates' court at which I was appearing had to sentence a city businessman who had pleaded guilty to driving with excess alcohol, using the unit fine system introduced by the Criminal Justice Act for the first time.

After some 15 minutes' delay while the new forms were completed and the guidelines considered, the very senior stipendiary magistrate commented that the Act had produced a system "far from recognisable to experienced sentencers", told the defendant that he should be imposing a fine of £2,000 which was "grossly disproportionate", and actually fined him £500. The magistrate would have come to the same conclusion under the old law in some 15 seconds.

In another case, it quickly became apparent that the interpretation of section 29 of the Act, relating to the relevance of previous convictions, by another senior stipendiary magistrate wholly conflicted with the recent interpretation by the Home Secretary. From all over London I hear of similar problems. Huge resources of judicial time and public money will have to be spent in clarifying the Act. Its intentions are good, but in a time of national financial constraints, one has to question the efficacy of the drafting and implementation.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BURDETT,
H. C. L. Hanne & Co.,
251 Lavender Hill, SW11.

Child care reforms

From Miss Gillian Pugh and others

Sir, October 14 marks the first anniversary of implementation of the Children Act 1989. When the legislation was introduced into the House of Lords, the Lord Chancellor, Lord McKay, described it as the most "comprehensive and far reaching reform of child law which has come before Parliament in living memory".

Part of this reform included the updating and strengthening of the standards that must be met by childminders, playgroups, and nurseries which provide care and education for over three million young children.

The Act was particularly detailed

Planned cuts in overseas aid budget

From the Director of VSO

Sir, With growing anxiety over proposed European and Treasury aid cuts, the death of Willy Brandt (obituary, October 10) has generated particularly poignant emotions.

Many people will remember the real excitement which greeted the Brandt commission report in 1978. *North-South: A Programme for Survival* was a milestone in thinking about relationships between the industrialised north and the poorer countries of the south.

Not only in Britain but also in other parts of Europe and beyond thousands of individuals, organisations and policy-makers embraced the concept of global interdependence. We believed that it was in all our interests to work for development in the south. For a while some of us dared hope there actually might be an end to hunger by the year 2000.

The Brandt report has been superseded by more recent publications from international commissions. Its basic principles of justice and humanity, however, continue to inspire millions of people to take action in support of others in the south.

VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) volunteers are a testament to this, yet all the evidence they present points to ever-deteriorating conditions in Africa and elsewhere. With crippling debt, drought and the effects of war threatening the very survival for which Willy Brandt fought, we must urge the UK government to abandon any idea of reducing aid spending (report, September 28; letters, October 5, 8).

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GREEN,
Director,
Voluntary Service Overseas,
317 Putney Bridge Road, SW15,
October 10.

From the Director of the
World Development Movement

Sir, Ministers making crucial decisions this week about the fate of Britain's aid to the Third World would do well to look into the economic arguments against cutting aid. They must ask themselves whether it is worth hitting the world's most vulnerable people and Britain's international standing for the sake of less than 1 per cent of the £18 billion planned increase in the 1993-4 budget, for that is all that meeting the aid commitments requires.

The aid budget is but a fraction of the £24 billion we spend annually on defence. A more drastic restructuring of public spending, which takes into account the new realities in the aftermath of the Cold war, would be a more sensible approach.

About two thirds of our country-to-country aid is tied to the purchase of British goods and services. Government figures show that in 1990 Britain got back £1.40 for every £1 channelled through international institutions such as the World Bank and the EC — a total return of £950 million in that year alone.

No figures exist for the returns on

country-to-country aid, although it is safe to assume that these are also significant. We do know, however, that the so-called aid-trade provision (ATP) — aid used as a sweetener to win British contracts abroad — generated exports of £211 million in 1990. The largest recipient of ATP since 1978 has been the hard-hat construction and engineering industry — companies such as Balfour Beatty, GEC and Davy.

If the government is so insensitive to public opinion as to ignore the hundreds of thousands of people who have come out in support of the aid programme in the past few weeks it should at least take a hard-headed look at the damage that any aid cuts will do to British companies and jobs.

Yours sincerely,
M. ELENA HURTADO,
Director,
World Development Movement,
25 Beehive Place, SW9,
October 12.

From Mr Andrew Clark

Sir, Many readers will wish to join with your leading article, "Mother of charities" (October 6), in commending the work of Oxfam on its fiftieth birthday. Quakers have been and felt a part of Oxfam since its inception, not just because we were inevitably amongst that "group of Oxford pacifists" (as you call them) but because having an avenue to give practical help to those in extreme distress is an essential part of retaining our own humanity. This is largely why Oxfam has been so successful: we need it.

The controversies which have arisen when Oxfam has attempted to tell the unpalatable truths which it has learned at first hand — whether about the debt burden, apartheid, or the inadequacy of aid — are a credit to its integrity. It would be failing in its duty now if it did not protest in the name of the poor, the donors and the United Nations against the prospect that our government will again make a reduction in the budget for overseas aid.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW CLARK,
(General Secretary,
Quaker Peace & Service Department),
Friends House,
173-177 Euston Road, NW1,
October 7.

From Mr Alexander Murray

Sir, Your otherwise excellent leading article on Oxfam says that it was founded by "a group of pacifists". My grandfather, Gilbert Murray, was one of the group and was not a pacifist.

The importance of this detail, surely, is that the health of the movement has been due precisely to its freedom from "isms" and a corresponding devotion to a single, eminently practical purpose.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER MURRAY,
Senior Common Room,
University College,
Oxford,
October 8.

Second thoughts

From Mr H. R. Wynne-Griffith

Sir, We wasted a lot of money on developing the Blue Knight missile. This was abandoned.

We wasted a lot of money on developing the TSR2 fighter-bomber. This was abandoned.

We are in danger of wasting a lot of money on developing and then cancelling the European fighter project. If we cannot do it jointly with our European partners then we should not make the attempt on our own. We have better things to spend the money on.

Yours faithfully,
H. R. WYNNE-GRIFFITH,
3 Dulwich Wood Avenue, SE19,
October 5.

Ducking and diving

From Mr Denis Franzini

Sir, The Royal Town Planning Institute has issued a "Practice Advice Note" concerning the personal safety of planning officers at meetings. Amongst the advice given is "listen carefully, even to abuse: agree where possible".

Will the institute be issuing advice to planning officers as to the level and manner of abuse that should be agreed to?

Yours faithfully,
DENIS FRANZINI,
10 Courtfield Mews, SW6,
October 12.

Getting ahead

From Mr Paul M. Hodgson

Sir, The American civil war general referred to by Bernard Levin ("The unmaking of the British", October 5) was the Confederate cavalry leader, Nathan Bedford Forrest. He was a businessman before the war and an energetic promoter of railways afterwards. (He cunningly supervised the destruction of many miles of line during the war.)

Forrest had the extraordinary distinction of having 30 horses shot from under him during the hostilities and having killed 31 men in hand-to-hand combat — "I was a horse ahead at the end!" — thus displaying his grip of resource management.

I very much trust that it will not prove necessary to mount a similar exercise in Britain to ensure the rebirth of our manufacturing base. Incidentally, Forrest was, albeit briefly, the first Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL M. HODGSON,
34 Crooked Billet,
Wimbledon Common, SW19.

From Mr J. A. Fleming

Sir, With respect to Bernard Levin, Elijah was the chap with the ravens; Elisha was the one with the horses and chariots of fire.

Yours truly,
J. A. FLEMING,
85 Gloucester Road,
Hampton, Middlesex.

Enlarging the pool of homes to rent

From Mr Owen Inskip

Sir, You reported (Weekend Money, October 3) the formation of Community Housing, a joint venture between two major building societies, whereby 5 per cent of their repossessed housing stock would be transferred into the rented sector. You also highlighted (report, October 6) research showing the immediate need for more than 100,000 homes for low-income families to rent.

There are said to be about 100,000 repossessed homes for sale, deteriorating in value, exacerbating the downward spiral in prices and increasing the number of households with loans exceeding the value of their homes. Many, despite counselling, choose to run away from their mortgages, under the misguided impression that their spiralling debt would thereby cease.

Does this not provide a unique opportunity to transfer a substantial number of repossessed homes out of the saturated "for sale" market into the rented sector? Ideally, the rental demand referred to above could be met in full by transferring the entire repossessed stock. More realistically, perhaps, all lenders should consider transferring approximately a third of their stock, some 30,000 homes.

If they were to act collectively all would benefit, as the impact should be sufficient to put a floor in the market and prevent the continuing downward spiral in prices and repossessions. New tenants would also benefit, with the added advantage that they would be integrated with owner-occupiers rather than segregated into large rental estates, with the attendant social problems so often associated with them.

Community Housing is one idea only and there will be others; but let us not waste this unique opportunity to create at least some good out of a thoroughly bad situation.

Yours faithfully,
OWEN INSKIP
(Manager, Community Housing),
17 Gay Street, Bath, Avon,
October 11.

From Mr A. R. Bridbury

Sir, My impression is that the market for rented accommodation is growing much more slowly than we might have expected it to do in present circumstances. The Chancellor could give it a tremendous boost at very little cost to the Exchequer by exempting the rental income received by small landlords from taxation.

There would be a cost to the Exchequer, of course, because the rental market is not negligible. But it is a tiny market compared to what it was and could be; and stimulating it in this way could easily take the sting out of a grave national problem.

Yours faithfully,
A. R. BRIDBURY,
Winter Sweet,
South Park Drive,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire,
October 9.

Freeing South Africans

From Mr Geoffrey Bindman

Sir, Twenty-nine years ago this month the United Nations General Assembly, with only South Africa dissenting, called for the immediate release of all political prisoners in South Africa.

Last month President de Klerk agreed with Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress, that all political prisoners would be released by November 15. Over 150 have been, but it is estimated that several hundred have not.

Last year the president failed to implement a previous agreement to free all political prisoners by April 30, 1991. He should implement both the letter and spirit of the latest agreement. The British government, especially in view of its current presidency of the European Community, should ensure that it is honoured in full.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY BINDMAN
(Chairman),
Satus (Southern Africa the
Imprisoned Society),
c/o Anti-Apartheid Movement,
13 Mandela Street, NW1,
October 9.

In for a soaking?

From Mr Joe Pengelly

Sir, What today constitutes a raincoat? I have recently been given two expensive world-famous named "raincoats" that allow rain almost immediately to permeate through to inner garments.

I am old enough to remember, in outcrops' windows, samples of raincoat material cradling a small pond of water on which celluloid toy ducks floated. Who today makes raincoats of such proved non-permeability, or is there no need since people no longer go out in the rain?

Should there not be a British Standard requiring raincoats at least to meet the obligation of their nomenclature?

Yours sincerely,
JOE PENGELLY,
36 Thorn Park, Mannamead,
Plymouth, Devon.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Business letters, page 25



BUSINESS 21-28
Michael Heseltine goes back to Westland



ARTS 29-31
Booker novelists betrayed by jacket design



SPORT 36-40
World Cup: the crucial role of Gazza

PROPERTY ON WEDNESDAY p29

THE TIMES 2

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14 1992

Abbey National makes surprise cut

Big reduction in interest rates is on the cards

By ANATOLE KALETSKY
ECONOMICS EDITOR

MINISTERS are still considering the possibility of a big cut in interest rates soon, despite the decision to keep rates unchanged at 9 per cent during last week's Conservative party conference.

With sterling holding steady above DM2.50 and growing evidence that the Bundesbank is preparing to ease its tight monetary stance, the autumn statement, due to be delivered by Norman Lamont in the first or second week of next month, is now seen as a promising opportunity to announce a substantial cut in interest rates.

Abbey National, the second largest mortgage lender, yesterday announced a surprise mortgage rate reduction from December 1 of 0.35 percentage points. This is in addition to its already announced cut of 0.75 percentage points. It has, however, delayed the first cut by a month.

Abbey said the reduction was in anticipation of a base

An unexpected cut in mortgage rates by Abbey National could foreshadow a bank base rate fall

rate cut. Other lenders preferred to wait for the banks to move first.

According to government policymakers, the cabinet has not rejected the idea of easing monetary policy as a *quid pro quo* for some of the tough decisions that would have to be made on public spending and pay. The tight public spending plans due to be announced in the autumn statement are expected to be both politically unpopular and economically deflationary.

The hope of an interest rate cut in the near future was reflected in gains by the stock market and gilt-edged market. The money market also advanced, with three-month interest rates falling to 8 1/2 per cent, while the short-term futures market pointed to 8.1

per cent base rates by early December.

Sterling rose sharply in early trading against the mark and the dollar, touching DM2.54 and \$1.72. There were reports of heavy buying from the Middle East and of multinational companies and investment institutions that had sold pounds before the devaluation rebuilding their sterling positions. But the pound slipped back to DM2.5250 and \$1.7150, partly in response to a slide in the dollar against the mark.

Market opinion remained divided on whether a cut in base rates would push sterling down or help to sustain it. Several big international investors said that sterling looked vulnerable at its present level of just over DM2.50, but added that a very firm floor would form at around DM2.40 or DM2.45 if prospects for economic recovery in Britain improved.

There was also sharp disagreement among analysts over whether the Bundesbank was preparing to ease German monetary policy and on how sharply German rates would fall once an easing began. However, government officials in London and other European capitals appeared increasingly convinced that German rate cuts would be substantial, although a clear move would probably not come at the Bundesbank council meeting in Frankfurt tomorrow. The following Bundesbank meeting is scheduled for October 29.

Although the Chancellor appeared to rule out any early easing of monetary policy in his speech in Brighton and before the Commons Treasury committee, these may have been holding statements. In the short time between Black Wednesday and the Conservative party conference, it was not possible for the Chancellor to consider in detail the options for monetary and fiscal action. Mr Lamont has been concentrating on negotiating with spending ministers and working out a new framework for monetary policy.

Factory gate price rises slow to 3.2%

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE price of goods leaving Britain's factory gates rose by an annual 3.2 per cent in September, the lowest since early 1988, according to the latest government figures.

The Treasury was quick to hail yesterday's provisional producer price data as "continued good news". Slowing output prices in manufacturing industry should help restrain retail price inflation, the targeted measure at the centre of the monetary policy that Norman Lamont has put in place of the discipline of the exchange-rate mechanism.

The target range of 1-4 per cent inflation during the life of the current Parliament employs the official retail price index, excluding the distorting

effect of mortgage interest payments. September figures issued on Friday showed this indicator dropping into the top of the range.

With no change in output prices between August and September, instead of the small rise expected, the annual increase slowed from an upward revised 3.4 per cent in August to 3.2 per cent last month — the lowest since February 1988.

The core measure, excluding food, drink and tobacco, showed an annual rise of 2.6 per cent in September after 2.7 per cent in August. The impact of the recent 12 per cent devaluation of the pound is expected to start to feed through from this month.

Henderson to buy Touche

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSON Administration is poised to buy Touche Renzant, the rival fund manager, from Societe Generale, the French bank, to create a £9 billion investment management group.

Henderson is paying more than £40 million for Touche, which manages investment trusts and other funds worth £2.2 billion. SocGen bought Touche less than four years ago and will suffer a loss of up to £10 million on the sale.

Henderson has been looking for an acquisition for

almost two years and will pay for the deal with its £55 million cash pile. Touche comes with £18 million cash.

Both Henderson and Touche have suffered a sharp fall in their funds in recent years due to poor investment performance and the loss of institutional clients. In the last five years, the two firms' combined assets have fallen by more than £4 billion.

Jeremy Edwards, Henderson's managing director, said the merger would make Henderson one of the country's

largest investment trust managers, with 18 trusts under management worth £2.3 billion.

Paul Manduca, chairman of Touche, blamed the failure of the SocGen tie-up on the poor performance of the stock market.

Henderson will merge the management of the two businesses and Mr Manduca is expected to be appointed deputy chief executive of the combined group.

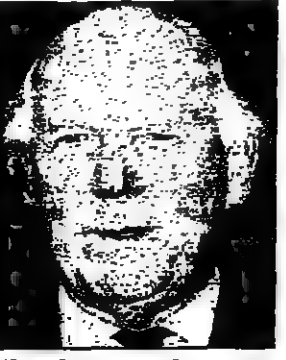
Times, page 24

Advice and loan costs peg MGN profits

By ANGELA MACKAY

HIGH advisory fees and loan arrangement costs helped limit pre-tax profits at Mirror Group Newspapers to £15.3 million for the six months ended June 28.

In the first reporting period following Robert Maxwell's death last November, MGN managed to increase turnover from £231 million to £234 million. Sir Robert Clark, chairman, said it was unlikely that the group, publisher of the *Daily Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror*, *People*, *Sunday Daily Record* and the *Sunday Mail*, would have to make any more provisions relating to the money siphoned off by Mr Maxwell. He said it was difficult to compare these results as the 1991 accounts



Sir Robert: "certain errors"

were qualified there may have been "certain errors" in the first-half accounts that were still being unravelled. In the first half, £9 million was returned to MGN's pension funds — the first of many

instalments to be made over the next 14 years. Net debt has risen from £398 million in December to £423 million, with a corresponding increase in interest charges to £22.9 million.

Despite the fraud, MGN has decided to start construction of its £113 million printing plant at Anderson Quays in Glasgow. The company, which has already spent £40 million of this on presses, included the cost of the project as part of its refinancing earlier this year. Legal and banking advisers charged £20 million to help the company dig itself out of trouble. Further charges will be made but on a much lower scale.

MGN has drawn up a shortlist of "fewer than six" candidates for the post of finance director, vacant for

several months. An appointment is expected soon.

Vic Horwood, chief executive, said the *Daily Mirror* had overtaken its rival, the *Sun*, in July and August but had slipped behind in September, partly because the *Mirror* increased its cover price by 2p to 27p.

Analysts at BZW, the stockbroker, said the interim results proved the company was resilient at operating levels even though the prospect of weaker advertising revenues in the fourth quarter was disappointing. BZW lifted its full-year profit forecast from £21 million to £29 million. MGN will not pay a dividend for at least two years under the terms of its refinancing.

Comment, page 25



Best seller: Peter Kindersley is seeking a stock market listing for Dorling Kindersley, the reference book publisher

Reuters and Carlton head ITN takeover consortium

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A POWERFUL consortium of British media companies led by Reuters and Michael Green's Carlton Communications yesterday launched a surprise takeover bid for independent television news, promising to invest £30 million in the troubled news company if successful.

ITN described the offer as "a positive indication of confidence" in its future and pledged to give the proposal "the most careful consideration" at a board meeting on Monday. Shareholders will consider the bid today.

The consortium, which includes Carlton Television and LWT, has offered just £400,000 — £1 a share — to acquire a collective 60 per cent stake from ITN's other ITV company shareholders. An initial £15 million will be injected via a subscription for new equity, with the remainder of the refinancing "to be called up as and when ITN's needs require".

News of the deal came as negotiations on ITN's contract to supply *News At Ten* and other bulletins to ITV were concluded. ITV is understood to have signed a five-year deal worth about £53 million a year, at least £10 million less than ITN had wanted.

The takeover will wipe out at one stroke the only threat to ITN's monopoly on ITV news provision, which the Independent Television Commission is to review in 1995.

ITN had feared that Carlton and LWT, together with Visnews, the global television picture agency wholly owned by Reuters, would challenge its position as ITV's sole news provider. GMTV, which replaces TV-am in January, and London News Network, a new local show, are both partly

owned by Carlton and LWT, and use Visnews.

Michael Green, chairman of Carlton Communications and chairman of the bidding consortium, said: "ITN is very important to ITV, which has an interest in its success. I believe we've put forward a solution that will meet everyone's requirements."

Last night, Bob Phillips, ITN's chief executive and a former managing director of Carlton Communications, told staff that the offer "proves ITN has a significant value".

Consortium sources said there were no plans to change

ITN's management or strategy. Mark Wood, editor-in-chief of Reuters, said there would be long-term synergies with Visnews but denied plans to merge Visnews with ITN.

Reuters, Carlton, Central and LWT will each take 20 per cent stakes in ITN, leaving the remaining 20 per cent for any ITV companies wishing to remain shareholders. But the new investors will be forced to dilute their holdings in late 1994, when the 1990 Broadcasting Act stipulates that ITV company shareholders cannot control more than 49 per cent of ITN.

Flotation for Dorling Kindersley

DORLING Kindersley, the publisher of reference books, is coming to the market through a placing and offer to intermediaries, valuing the company at between £75 million and £100 million.

Peter Kindersley, chairman and chief executive, co-founded the company in 1974 and has watched it grow into an international publishing house with sales of more than £70 million. It publishes reference guides including *The American Medical Association Family Medical Guide*, which has sold more than 5.9 million copies.

The listing is expected to raise £25 million before expenses. Dealings are expected to begin on October 30.

TODAY IN BUSINESS

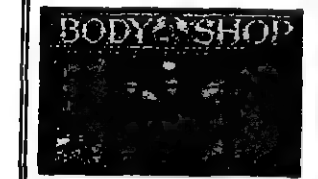


Michael Heseltine should find Sir Leslie Fletcher, the Westland chairman, looking forward not back when he visits the Yeovil helicopter firm today
Page 25

RIGHT FIT

The board of Clarks Shoes meets today to consider no less than four approaches from parties keen to buy a majority stake
Page 23

GREEN GROWS



Environment-friendly food and clothes could soon be appearing alongside the pots and lotions at Body Shop stores
Page 23

ROW SPARKED



National Power and PowerGen are under fire for the profits they make supplying peak-time electricity
Page 22

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7155 (+0.0140)
German mark 2.5281 (+0.0175)
Exchange index 83.4 (+0.6)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1891.0 (+12.2)
FT-SE 100 2584.7 (+27.5)
New York Dow Jones 3210.34 (+35.93)*
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 17490.87 (+188.66)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 9%
3-month interbank 8 1/2%
3-month eligible bills: 8 1/2%
US: Prime Rate 6%
Federal Funds 3 1/8%
3-month Treasury Bills 2 5/8-2 5/8%
30-year bonds 97-97 1/2

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £: \$1.7155
DM: £1.4855
Sfr: £2.2542
FF: £5.780
Yen: £121.35
Index: 83.4
ECU: 10.7191
SDR: 16.5
London: New York: £: \$1.7155
DM: £1.4855
Sfr: £2.2542
FF: £5.780
Yen: £121.35
Index: 83.4
ECU: 10.7191
SDR: 16.5

GOLD

London: New York: £: \$1.7155
DM: £1.4855
Sfr: £2.2542
FF: £5.780
Yen: £121.35
Index: 83.4
ECU: 10.7191
SDR: 16.5

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$20.90/bbl (\$20.80)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 138.4 September (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Regulator threatens generators with break-up

The electricity industry watchdog yesterday threatened to refer National Power and PowerGen to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission over high prices charged to meet peak demand and stabilise supplies

By PATRICIA TEHAN

STEPHEN Littlechild, the electricity industry regulator, declared yesterday that customers are not adequately protected by the rules that allow high-cost power stations to charge high prices for stabilising the supply of electricity.

He identified 14 power stations that made £200 million in extra profits in the year to end-March 1992, a 70 per cent increase on the previous year, and threatened the two companies who dominate power generation, National Power and the smaller PowerGen, with a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and a full break-up of the industry.

The report sent both share prices into decline. PowerGen fell 7p to 279p and National Power 7p to 266p.

In the normal running of the electricity market, power stations bid a price and the National Grid calls in the

cheapest plants to run on the system, informing them 24 hours before they are needed. Under this system, plants are used according to the value of the bid they put in.

However, over and above this system there is a "strained-on plant" which, to keep electricity flowing at times of peak demand, are occasionally required to run. These plants are in a monopoly position, charging whatever they like in order to cover their costs.

The potential for the generators to exploit customers through such plant was highlighted after a complaint over prices charged by National Power for running its Fawley station on the south coast.

Income from the running of two of these "strained-on" plants featured in a £90 million exceptional profit for PowerGen in its last figures.

Professor Littlechild has asked the National Grid Company to report back to him on the scope for reducing costs.

After months of investigation, Professor Littlechild said yesterday: "It may well be more economic to make greater investment in the network, or to introduce voluntary demand reduction schemes. I have asked the NGC to report on the scope for flexibility in scheduling plant within existing transmission security standards and to review the standards themselves."

He also plans to investigate "the contribution which may be made by a different pattern of ownership of generation plant," a clear signal that the generators might be required to sell some of their most profitable assets or even that the entire industry might be broken up. "I shall consider whether the major generators should be referred to the MMC," he said, an outcome that would be fiercely resisted by the companies themselves.

The generators had argued that the contracts entered into when the industry was privatised subsequently led them to bid higher prices for their oil-fired stations than they would otherwise have done, so that these stations ran less frequently in the unconstrained schedule. This meant the generators had higher costs to recover when they were required to run these stations.

The costs of running these constrained-on stations added 1 per cent to the cost of electricity in the last financial year, shared by all electricity customers. One alternative being examined by Professor Littlechild is that the higher charges should be shouldered by the regions that require the constrained-on plant.

Schemes for R&D off target

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

GOVERNMENT schemes for supporting industrial research and development are missing the target, a survey by Peat Marwick shows.

Project-based schemes run by the trade and industry department appear to have little impact on companies' commitment to R&D. The survey of 324 high-tech firms showed even Link, the most popular scheme, was used by only 13 per cent of the firms. Seventy-nine per cent said the schemes had no influence on them. Nick Ward, a tax specialist at Peat Marwick, said: "No doubt there are companies that are happy, but the general comment was that the schemes are too narrowly focused."

Tax-based incentives were favoured by 86 per cent, because they would encourage companies to invest in research more effectively than government schemes, and provide greater freedom to pursue market needs in research without having to tailor projects to meet government conditions for assistance.

Key issues and future directions in research and development for high technology companies is published by KPMG Peak Marwick High Technology Practice, 14-17 St John's Square, EC1 4HE.

Channel Holdings steers a new course



Securing the future: Desmond Mitchell, left, Barry Treacy and Patrick Rogers of Channel Holdings

By MARTIN BARROW

CHANNEL Holdings reported that Carlow Products, a car security company acquired in August for £2.7 million, was trading satisfactorily, with sales up 30 per cent year-on-year. It proposes to pay its first dividend for the year to the end of March, 1993. Channel, formerly Channel Tunnel

Investments, was established more than a century ago for the purpose of building a Channel link, and has existed as an investment company. Having finally abandoned hope of realising its first aim, the company appointed Patrick Rogers as chief executive to mastermind the acquisition of its first operating company, with Philip Ling, an industri-

alist who is also non-executive chairman of Haden MacLellan, as chairman. Desmond Mitchell is finance director and Barry Treacy is executive director.

Their formal appointments coincided with a £1.5 million placing and rights issue, raising funds to acquire Carlow, a supplier of security products, which earned pre-tax profits of

£489,000 in the year to the end of March. New shares were offered at 20p, compared with the current price of 21p.

Channel Holdings reported pre-tax losses of £19,028 for the six months to the end of June, against losses of £1,322 last time, with no contribution from Carlow. Losses were 1.3p a share (0.1p loss). There is no interim dividend.

Traders trapped by commercial leases

By RODNEY HOBSON

DAVID and Adrienne Jackson face a £12,500 bill for the rent on someone else's shop. They will go to court on October 26 fearing that they will be ordered to pay the rent for another seven years, while the occupant continues to trade rent free.

They are not the victims of an unscrupulous absentee landlord. The owner of the property is Equity & Law, a reputable insurance company that is acting within its rights.

The Jacksons are victims of Britain's commercial lease

laws that are under attack from the Confederation of British Industry, the Law Society, commercial tenants and even some landlords. Tenants of commercial premises remain responsible for the rent for the duration of a lease, even if the lease is taken over by a new tenant.

Mr and Mrs Jackson took a lease on a shop in Friar Street, Reading, Berkshire, in 1985. They sold T-shirts and jewellery. After a year they passed on the lease, deciding to concentrate on their larger

and more profitable shop, Cavaliers, in Broad Street.

The current tenant in the Friar Street shop, Anayet Patel, has run a leatherware shop called Paris Match for three years. The lease runs out in 1999.

Mrs Jackson said that in June last year, nine months after the existing tenant is alleged to have defaulted on the rent, they discovered they were responsible for the unpaid sum, although they were not the original leaseholders and they did not pass the lease

to Mr Patel. Mrs Jackson says: "We had no idea this clause existed in leases. We fear we may be the only ones in the chain of previous tenants who are still trading... Why should we pay someone else's rent when he is still trading?"

Equity & Law declined to discuss the individual case but confirmed that it is taking Mr Patel, the Jacksons and other former tenants to court on October 26. The case is expected to last for three days.

A spokesman said: "The lease was freely agreed by the tenants. The original and subsequent tenants are liable for the rent even though they have assigned the lease. We always try to be fair to all involved — the current tenant, previous tenants who have given us covenant and our policy holders whose money is invested in our funds."

Cases such as the Jacksons have prompted the CBI to call for laws to limit the right of landlords to claim from former tenants and to change the rules on rent reviews.

John Pollard, the CBI's property law consultant, says that in extreme cases landlords deliberately delay claims for unpaid rent. He says: "The landlord can claim interest at base rate plus 4 per cent so it can be in his interest to let it run on. He is under no duty of care to previous tenants who have no right to repossession."

Mr Pollard says responsible landlords are becoming concerned at the actions of less scrupulous property owners.

The Law Society says it too is urging the government to adopt the principle that a tenant should generally be free from liabilities incurred by later tenants.

An assistant at Paris Match declined to comment. She said she was unable to contact Mr Patel.



Fine print: Adrienne and David Jackson face £12,500 rent on a shop they do not use

Wace Group names Clegg's successor

WACE Group has finally found a replacement for John Clegg, the former chief executive who resigned in February amid reports that connected the company with IRA money laundering. The new chief executive is Trevor Grice, 51, who previously occupied the same post at Renold, the Manchester engineer, having previously spent 14 years in the printing industry.

Mr Clegg, now believed to be in America, left before an internal enquiry that found no evidence of any IRA links. However, the group passed papers concerning share dealing in companies Wace had taken over to the Department of Trade and Industry. The DTI is expected to complete its investigation into companies linked with Wace within the next few weeks.

Cross-border deals

BRITISH businesses bought and sold more companies overseas than any other country outside the US in the first nine months of this year. A survey by KPMG Peat Marwick revealed British firms accounted for 17 per cent of the world's cross-border acquisitions — 219 deals worth £2.5 billion. Britain also made 13 per cent of all overseas sales — 178 worth £7.35 billion. Richard Agutter, of KPMG, said: "The single European market is becoming a reality and businesses are restructuring to ensure they are equipped to deal in a pan-European rather than simply a national market."

TJ Hughes edges ahead

TJ HUGHES, the discount department store operator based in northwest England, increased taxable profits from £114,000 to £143,000 in the half year to July 25. The company, which was floated on the Unlisted Securities Market last May, is paying a maiden dividend of 0.75p a share from earnings of 0.16p. Turnover rose from £11.8 million to £17.8 million, excluding VAT, and operating profits from £212,000 to £226,000. Like-for-like sales increased 12.8 per cent. Since the start of the financial year TJ Hughes has increased selling space almost 46,000 sq ft.

Spain told to recover aid

THE European Commission has ordered the Spanish government to recover 5.9 billion pesetas (£32.9 million) in aid given in 1990 to Merco, an agricultural processing firm. The commission has the power to order recovery of state aid under rules in the European Community treaty. A statement said: "The Commission considers that this aid is a measure solely aimed at absorbing the losses accumulated by the company and (that it is) likely to affect trade between member states." It said the aid was incompatible with EC rules and told Madrid to abolish the subsidy and order its repayment.

Titles swap approved

EMAP and United Newspapers have been given approval to swap some of their titles after a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation. Emap can now buy seven newspapers in Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire and United can buy three newspapers in south west Wales. The MMC said the titles swap was not expected to operate against the public interest. It said although there would be some job losses as a result of the transfers, employment prospects in the medium term would be improved.

Marshall buys AWD

AWD, the truck maker that went into receivership in June, has been bought by Marshall SPV, a British military vehicle specialist. Marshall SPV plans to move AWD, the Bedford Trucks business, based in Dunstable, Bedfordshire, to its Cambridge headquarters. The deal secures the jobs of AWD's 150 remaining staff. Seven hundred staff were laid off when the receivers were called in. Tony Thompson, of KPMG Peat Marwick, receivers, said AWD had been trading successfully since June while talks took place with a number of parties.

Investment off agenda

FINANCE ministers from the European Community will not now discuss the investment services directive covering securities trading at their meeting in Luxembourg next Monday, EC sources said. The directive will allow investment firms to operate in all member states. Areas still in need of work are the division of responsibility between the home and the host state for policing securities firms, the formal definition of a transferable security, and requests for exemptions from Britain, Italy and Denmark.

Grim property outlook

THE property market is likely to remain depressed for the foreseeable future, according to Martin Ritchie, Coventry Building Society's chief executive. However, Mr Ritchie said his society's competitive mortgage and investment products and tight cost control enabled it to face the difficult market conditions with confidence. The Coventry, Britain's 16th-largest building society, yesterday reported a 10.3 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £11.8 million for the half year to June 30.

Heron bondholder sues

A SMALL holder of Heron International Finance BV Swiss franc bonds has started legal action to retrieve his investment as patience wears thin among creditors waiting for the private British property group's survival package. However, the individual, who is Swiss, has brought the action in his homeland, which appears to be the incorrect jurisdiction. The company said it was writing to tell the bondholder that negotiations were well advanced and his action might be precipitant.

Call for North Sea cuts

By OUR CITY STAFF

MASSIVE cost cutting is needed to ensure the future of the North Sea oil and gas industry, an official of Amerada Hess, the American oil company, told an oil conference in Aberdeen.

Rex Gaisford, Amerada Hess's projects director, said: "The result of the fat years has

generated a cost culture... that is wholly insupportable in the remaining lean years."

He said the North Sea oil and gas industry was "going nowhere" unless its cost structure changed. Shared facilities would be standard and the oil industry service industry would have to change.

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Gravy train of eighties unlikely to recur

Management buyout opportunities about to rise

By PATRICIA TEHAN

MANAGEMENT buyout opportunities are poised to increase next year, as the debt finance from banks, which dried up at the end of the 1980s, begins to flow again. According to research published by the London Business School, there is a strong link between macro economic changes and the level of buyout activity, particularly at the top end of the market.

The LBS found three phases of management buyout activity, linked to different periods of the economic cycle and stages in the evolution of the buyout industry.

In 1980-4 it found a combination of regulatory and fiscal action, combined with a change in entrepreneurial attitudes, fuelled the growth in activity as Britain moved out of recession.

There was spectacular growth in the level of buyouts between 1985-9, helped by a sustained period of economic

growth, increasing mergers and acquisitions activity, a buoyant stock market and the willingness of banks to provide debt financing.

The market contracted between 1990-2. But despite a fall in the value of management buyouts by 46 per cent from £3.9 billion in 1989 to £2.1 billion in 1991, the number of transactions rose 19 per cent from 374 to 444.

According to the LBS, this shows the decline at the top end of the market. Smaller transactions, which have lower levels of gearing, remain constant.

The LBS study shows deteriorating economic conditions hit the highly geared transactions and led to a more cautious lending approach. However, buyout opportunities continued to appear as companies refocused on their core activities in response to the difficult economic climate.

The LBS research, commissioned by Murray Johnstone, the venture capital

consultant, shows a two-tier pattern of buyout activity. The number of buyouts worth more than £25 million slumped from 30 in 1989, to 17 in 1990, and to 15 last year. Iain Tulloch, Murray Johnstone director, said it is likely to stay at the same level this year.

By contrast, there were 344 smaller buyouts in 1989, soaring to 468 in 1990, and slipping back to 429 last year.

The main difference in the character of the smaller buyouts is a fall in the level of gearing. Dr Michael Hay, of the LBS, said: "Small deals, up to and including £25 million are significantly less affected by macro economic changes."

The LBS believes the gravy train of the early 1980s is unlikely to recur. But it believes there are still good opportunities. It argues one of the most important determinants of success, particularly at the top end of the market, will be the ability to interpret changes in the economic cycle.



Tulloch: buyouts steady

Clarks confirms talks with three further suitors

After 167 years the Clark family is ready to yield control of C&J Clark, the shoe manufacturer, to raise £150 million to promote brands and give shareholders a chance to realise their investments

By JON ASHWORTH

C&J CLARK, the West Country shoe manufacturer caught up in a boardroom battle, is in talks with at least four potential suitors over the sale of a "friendly" majority stake in the company. The move, which would remove control from the Clark family for the first time in 167 years, is designed to raise about £150 million to promote brands and give shareholders a chance to realise their investments.

Electra Investment Trust, the venture capital group, announced last week that it was prepared to take a majority stake in Clarks, one of

Britain's biggest private companies. Clarks confirmed yesterday that it had received at least three more approaches since then. Two are British and one American.

Talk of a possible sale is at the heart of a dispute which has split the Clarks board. A group of rebel shareholders led by Lance Clark is seeking the removal of Walter Dickson, chairman, and Jim Power, a non-executive director, at a meeting in Glastonbury, Somerset, on Friday.

Yesterday, however, it emerged that institutional investors, who hold just under 10 per cent of Clarks shares, have voted by proxy in favour of the loyalists. The news is a setback to the rebels, who hold 25-40 per cent of the shares, but the outcome of Friday's meeting is still far from certain.

The board meets today to discuss the bid approaches. John Clothier, chief executive of Clarks and a family member, said at least three other "people of substance" other than Electra had expressed an interest in taking a stake. He said: "The business can survive without equity, but our strategy can be implemented more successfully with equity."

The idea of a "friendly" bid was proposed by Colin Fisher, managing director of SRU, a management consultancy,

who has been friendly with the Clarks board for several years. Mr Fisher initiated the talks with Electra. SRU is not involved.

Mr Clothier said: "We were discussing how to fund the development of the brand in western Europe and America, knowing our resources were limited. Colin suggested mounting a bid for the company backed by Electra. The new ownership structure would bring stability to the business and give shareholders a chance to sell their shares."

An approach earlier this year from a Hong Kong investor who was prepared to pay between £20 million and £40 million for a 10-20 per cent stake, came to nothing.

Tension among shareholders who feel locked in to their stakes helped fuel the boardroom split. A sharp decline in trading profits has done little to help. Clarks has halved its interim dividend to 1.75p (3.5p) after announcing pre-tax losses of £3.5 million (£2.5 million profit in the six months to end-June).

St Ives edges ahead in tough market

By OUR CITY STAFF

PRINTERS are increasingly prepared to take on work at a loss because of the overcapacity and falling demand in the industry, according to St Ives, one of Britain's biggest independent printing groups.

Robert Gavron, the chairman, said: "We're walking away from a lot of business offered at the moment because the margins aren't worth it." As a result, the company's plant, some of the most modern in the industry, was operating at 75 per cent capacity.

Despite the squeeze on business, St Ives reported pre-tax profits ahead from £20.2 million to £21.1 million in the year to the end of July and increased the final dividend to 3.75p, raising the total by 0.25p to 5.25p.

Mr Gavron said the com-

pany saw no signs of a general economic recovery. "Although in these tough conditions our ability to progress is likely to be limited, an improvement in the economic climate would give us excellent opportunities for growth." But he gave a warning that any improvement might not be a sharp one. "I don't think we have any divine right to a boom."

St Ives managed to increase its share of the magazine market despite the closure of 13 titles it had been printing during last year, while earlier investment limited the fall in margins. Mr Gavron said: "Had we not re-equipped we would be doing rather badly now. As it is we're doing OK, but not brilliantly."

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Sense of direction: Gordon and Anita Roddick are searching for ways to enhance the potential of the Body Shop brand name

Body Shop looks for new products

By PHILIP PANGALOS

HOW would consumers react to Body Shop International clothing, food or other environmentally sound branded products from the natural cosmetics and toiletries retailer?

That is one of the questions being asked by Gordon Roddick, Body Shop's chairman, who founded the group with his wife Anita. Mr Roddick is examining ways to enhance the potential of Body Shop's image and brand name, but he is keeping his cards close to his chest. New products are likely to be tried out next year.

"We would like to use our existing overheads to attract new customers," he said. The depressed conditions affecting UK operations are blamed for a 10 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £8.26 million in the six months to end-August, on sales up 6 per cent to £67.2 million.

Sales at Body Shop's 219 UK stores were below expectations, with trading profit down 42 per cent to £3.7 million. Some 15 shops were opened during the period, with a further 13 expected to open in the second half. The group has a UK target of 300 shops within three to four years.

Matters were not helped by a dispute with an "irrational" franchise which led to six shops shutting at a cost of

some £400,000. Most of the shops have reopened on new sites, with the remainder expected to be trading before Christmas. Profits were also hampered as franchisees were slower than usual in ordering Christmas supplies.

On a brighter note, Body Shop's growing international business provided a better-than-expected cushion against the slump in Britain as retail growth outside the UK rose 30 per cent, with the strongest increase from Asia. International turnover, excluding America, rose 21 per cent to £21 million, with trading profits ahead 28 per cent to £5.1 million. The group now has 590 shops abroad, with plans to open another 60 in the second half.

Mr Roddick was unwilling to predict any upturn in the economy. "Consumer confidence in the UK has not shown any sign of returning. It has been incredibly patchy. It was dreadful in September but October picked up a lot. It is therefore too early to try and assess the outcome of the years' trading in the UK."

Gearing was "just over" 50 per cent. The interim payout is held at 0.68p. Earnings dipped to 2.9p (3p) and the shares ended 2p up at 163p.

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Business failure rate to fall

By OUR CITY STAFF

BUSINESS failures in the third quarter of 1992 are forecast to fall by 7 per cent from the previous quarter, according to figures released by Trade Indemnity, the credit insurance group.

The number of failures notified to the company in the third quarter are estimated at 1,780, compared with 1,911 in the second quarter, while the change over the corresponding quarter in 1991 shows a 15 per cent fall.

But the credit insurance group has given warning against "over optimism" and says that the figures should not be taken as evidence that the recession is over.

"While it is encouraging to see a fall of this nature, it remains to be seen whether the turmoil in the markets in late September and the uncertainty about the government's economic policy will have any impact," said a spokeswoman.

Overall, Trade Indemnity is still forecasting the number of business failures in 1992 to be similar to last year's 7,807. The group does not rule out further "significant" failures despite the recent reduction in interest rates. For 1993, Trade Indemnity predicts the overall failure rate to fall by just 10 per cent.

GM directors put chairman on spot

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

ROBERT Stempel, chairman and chief executive of General Motors, is believed to have been told he could lose his job by the end of the year if the car group fails to show dramatically improved results.

GM's outside directors, who form a majority on the board, have already forced important changes and a management shake-up in the past year, and are understood to have issued an ultimatum to Mr Stempel and other top executives at a routine meeting in New York.

They have demanded a much tougher line with the United Auto Workers (UAW) union and an increase in the pace of job cuts and plant closures. GM lost almost \$10 billion producing cars in North America last year.

The new situation at GM has been triggered by a review by Moody's Investors Service, the credit rating agency, which could lead to a downgrading of GM's commercial paper debt. Analysts say any downgrading in this class of debt could seriously damage GM's ability to fund its day-to-day business.

It was the fear of a downgrading this year that prompted the outside directors to demand action which resulted in GM announcing 21 factory closures and the loss of

74,000 jobs over the next three years. In April, the non-executives, led by John Smale, former Procter & Gamble chairman, and including Dennis Weatherstone, JP Morgan chairman, orchestrated a management shake-up that effectively stripped Mr Stempel of many of his executive powers while leaving him with his job title.

GM lost \$1.1 billion in the third quarter last year and a record \$4.5 billion for 1991. The UAW sanctioned two strikes in the past two months and a third was averted last week when GM agreed to add jobs to a factory in return for a union commitment to help cut costs.

GM said in a statement yesterday: "There is no disagreement between management and the outside directors in the position the corporation must take in bargaining with the unions representing our employees. Our objective is to arrive at settlements that improve our competitiveness not weaken it, and we will be working with the unions to accomplish that objective. The action plans that were approved by the GM board of directors months ago are proceeding at an accelerated pace and we are encouraged by their progress."

Bank believed to be trying to save football ground

By MATTHEW BOND



No comment: Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, is keeping his views to himself

THE Royal Bank of Scotland is believed to be close to agreeing a deal that would secure the future of football at Stamford Bridge, the west London home of Chelsea football club.

RBS is principal banker to Cabra Estates, the property company that owns Stamford Bridge and Craven Cottage, Fulham's home ground. Yesterday, Cabra announced that it had made a pre-tax loss of £22.1 million in the year to end-March and that its net assets had been wiped out by falling property values. It also announced that talks with Chelsea, which began in April, had failed to secure the long-expected deal under which Chelsea would buy Stamford Bridge for about £13 million and share the ground with Fulham.

Cabra said it was now in talks with "a financially reputable third party which has no connection with Chelsea" interested in acquiring both Stamford Bridge and Craven Cottage. The third party is understood to be RBS, which, having acquired the ground

from Cabra, is expected to offer the Premier division club a long lease on the ground, or the option to buy it over a number of years. Cabra has been discussing a debt restructuring plan with RBS.

Last week, Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, announced that Vanbrugh, a private company he controls, had transferred its 29.6 per cent stake in Cabra to a new company, Chelsea Village. A spokesman said Mr Bates had no comment to make on the latest developments.

Cabra said its final losses for the year could not be finalised until the talks on the football grounds and debt restructuring had been completed. The losses have been struck after a £12.9 million exceptional item that covers writedowns in the value of Stamford Bridge and Craven Cottage. Because Cabra believes it now has nil net assets, it has called an extraordinary general meeting for November 6 to determine its future.

For the third year running, there is no final dividend, giving a zero total (0.1p).

FR Group rises above the cloud to lift payout

By OUR CITY STAFF

FR Group, the aviation products group, is raising its dividend after bucking the tough conditions gripping the defence and aerospace sectors with a 5.7 per cent advance in first-half profits.

Tight control of costs helped the company, which makes about 75 per cent of its sales to the defence sector, lift pre-tax profits to £11 million in the six months to end-June. Turnover rose 10.3 per cent to £85.4 million. Gordon Page, chief executive, said more than half group turnover related to export

markets, with the trend "rising". Despite reduced defence spending and the difficult conditions facing the aerospace and defence industries in Europe and America, Mr Page was relatively upbeat about prospects. He said orders in hand and the group's current performance should result in a satisfactory outlook for the full year.

The civil market, which accounts for about 25 per cent of group sales, "flattened off" and there was some concern about the danger of cancellation of orders by major customers. Mr Page said: "There is still business out there; it's just harder to get."

Flight refuelling, the group's air-to-air refuelling pod business, was recently awarded a contract for the conversion of an additional five VC10 aircraft to the tanker role. This is on top of the original contract for eight VC10 aircraft and will provide work on the project through to 1995. The whole project, including additional refurbishment work, could be worth £80 million. The company has also won a contract for the design and manufacture of the total low pressure fuel system for the Indonesian IPTN N250 commuter aircraft.

Aviation Defense Services, FR's joint

venture in France, has won a five-year contract from the French navy to provide electronic warfare and target towing services similar to those provided by FR Aviation to the Royal Navy. The contract is thought to be worth between £3 million and £4 million a year.

The group has about £3 million net cash and is looking at a number of opportunities. Net interest received was trimmed to £1.3 million (£1.5 million). Earnings climbed to 10.2p (9.7p) a share. The interim dividend rises to 2.46p (2.34p). FR shares added 9p to 179p.

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TEMPUS

Price must be right for Henderson deal

THE market was a little hasty in marking up Henderson Administration's share price so vigorously when it learned of its impending acquisition of Touche Remnant. The quality of the deal depends entirely on the price.

Reports suggest the deal will be worth more than £40 million but this will include £18 million in cash that Touche has in its balance sheet. Any price under £48 million would be reasonable. Any more and the acquisition begins to look expensive.

In any case, investors should treat the affair with a dose of cynicism. Henderson is using shareholders' money to restore its funds under management to £9 billion, where they stood five years ago.

Touche's recent record is not sparkling either. In 1986 it managed more than £4 billion, a figure that has since halved.

Henderson has not made an acquisition since 1974, so the board cannot be accused of rushing into the deal. But it is still a bold step for the group to commit most of its £55 million cash pile to an uncertain future. In the past three years the investment income from this cash has been the most dependable feature in Henderson's figures. Last year it supplied 41 per cent of pre-tax profits.

Assuming Henderson has negotiated a good price and and Touche delivers its institutional and investment trust clients safely, the combined group will control a well balanced portfolio of investment trusts, unit trusts and institutional funds.

Then, however, Henderson will need to combine the management and systems of the two firms quickly and efficiently to gain the economies of scale. The group must also continue to improve its

investment performance or risk alienating its remaining institutional clients. All in all, Henderson's management faces quite a challenge.

Henderson should be able to bring operating profits of £3 million out of Touche's portfolio. Even if the deal is broadly earnings-neutral, the group's profits are still likely to fall by £1 million this year to £16 million because of the poor performance of the stock market.

At 655p, the shares carry a p/e ratio of 13 and are best avoided until the full terms of the deal are published.

Body Shop

ALL cannot be too badly awry at Body Shop International, even after last month's untimely profit warning on Black Wednesday that sent shares in the natural cosmetics and toiletries group reeling. If Gordon Roddick can head off the Brazilian rainforest next week, Mr Roddick, the chairman, who founded the environmentally friendly group with his wife Anita, is going to the jungle for one of his routine visits to the 300 or so Indians who produce the oil used in Body Shop's exotic but friendly hair conditioner.

The proud record of unbroken success at Body Shop is the latest victim of the squeeze on domestic consumer spending. Pre-tax profits fell 10 per cent to £8.3 million in the half year to end-August, despite sales up 6 per cent to £67.2 million.

Problems were confined to Britain, where like-for-like sales at the group's 219 stores fell by 3 per cent with no immediate sign of a pick up. While there is no evidence of downgrading to the likes of Boots or Sainsbury's, with the average spend maintained at £4.50, customers are paying



In print: Robert Gavron of St Ives saw profits rise thanks to investment

marginally fewer trips to the shops.

Body Shop's growing international business provided a cushion against the British slump, with sales up in all countries and retail growth at the 590 shops up 30 per cent. Much depends on the impor-

tant Christmas period, although the shortfall in British sales is still worrying. The market is looking for full-year profits of about £25.5 million, putting the shares on a forward price/earnings multiple of around 18.5, a premium to others in the retail sector of about 20 per cent. With the

uncertainty hanging over Christmas trading, the ultra low-yielding shares still look expensive.

St Ives

Robert Gavron reckoned yesterday it was easier to spot the winner of the Booker Prize

than the end of the recession. He was betting on Michael Ondaatje's *The English Patient* ahead of last night's awards ceremony, one of two shortlisted books printed by St Ives, the company where he is chairman.

St Ives, which has spent as much as £140 million upgrading its plant over the past five years, is placing no bets on any economic upturn. The fall-off of advertising revenue has meant fewer and slimmer magazines on the news stands, while a build-up of excess capacity in the industry has trimmed margins for the printers.

Mr Gavron says he is now turning business away that is offered at unfavourable rates but margins have halved from the boom years of five years ago. The business printing side, including Burnups and now strengthened by a transatlantic link with the American Merrill operation, has recovered from the appalling trading in 1990-1 that took in the Gulf war, but the only real growth area remains the junk mail that still lands on the nation's doormats.

The benefits of the investment in upgrading kept pre-tax profits a touch ahead last year at £21.1 million against £20.2 million, despite turnover that fell £10 million to £208 million.

As well as some of the most up-to-date web-offer printing plants in the country, St Ives has £13 million in the bank and continuing strong cash flow.

Tim Rothwell at Barclays de Zoete Wedd is looking for another marginal increase in pre-tax profits to £22 million this year, putting the shares on a hefty 18 times earnings that anticipates some of the eventual upturn. There are far cheaper stocks in the sector, although the shares remain a core long-term holding.

OECD downgrades its forecast for Japanese growth

■ A recovery in the Japanese economy is expected in the first half of 1993, led by an upturn in investment in housing and public works and encouraged by stable prices, according to the OECD

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S gross domestic product is forecast to grow at a real 2.6 per cent next year, down from a July estimate of 3.1 per cent, an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development official said.

Kumiharu Shigehara, head of the OECD economics department, said the revised forecast will be contained in a report scheduled to be released this year. Mr Shigehara said Japan's economy would probably hit the bottom in the latter half of this year and would regain momentum in the first half of next, led by a steady recovery in housing investment and public works spending.

"Behind the recovery are housing investment, as well as public works spending likely to show double-digit growth. The combined effect would encourage corporate capital investment, leading to a recovery in consumer confidence," Mr Shigehara said.

Stable prices and relatively limited fears over unemployment would allow Japan's economy to regain speed later on, though inventory draw-downs would take a bit longer.

Japan's GDP is forecast to grow a real 1.6 per cent in the second half of this year, 2.6 per cent in the first half of next, and 3 per cent in the second half. Mr Shigehara said Japan should adopt flexible monetary policies in line with market conditions, while adding that Japan should not try

to expand domestic demand too rapidly. "It is more important to ensure medium- to long-term [economic] performance, even though Japan has to face a prolonged adjustment period."

The OECD member nations' economies are now forecast to grow an average 1.5 per cent this year, and about 3 per cent next, while their average jobless rate is estimated at 7.9 per cent this year and 8.2 per cent next, Mr Shigehara said.

In December 1991, the OECD forecast the OECD economies would grow an average 2.2 per cent this year and 3.3 per cent next. Their average jobless rate was seen at 7.4 per cent this year and 7.1 per cent next, Mr Shigehara said.

□ Nikkei rises — Shares ended higher on a technical rebound, with sentiment encouraged by the firm futures market and lower short-term interest rates, brokers said. The Nikkei average rose 188.66 points to 17,490.67, with an estimated 210 million shares traded.

"The market is rising pretty much on technical factors," one broker at a foreign brokerage said. "People came to feel that the Nikkei is not going to fall below 17,000 and strong futures prices are helping lift prices." Buying by public funds and investment trusts also gave the market support but people were reluctant to move with no new incentives.

Record rise in income at Merrill Lynch

FROM REUTERS IN NEW YORK

MERRILL Lynch & Co said its third-quarter net income rose 44 per cent from a year ago to a record on strong performance at virtually all of its business segments.

It posted a third-quarter net figure of \$230.1 million, or \$2.05 a share, on total revenue of \$3.39 billion compared with a net of \$160.2 million, or \$1.37 a share, on total revenues \$3.04 billion in the comparative 1991 period.

Merrill also said that in the third quarter, it was again the top underwriter of debt and equity securities in America and globally. Its third-quarter investment banking revenues rose 25 per cent to \$365 million. The company also cited well controlled costs as a reason for its strong third-quarter performance.

Its third-quarter principal transactions revenues rose 26 per cent to a record \$610 million on heightened client activity in foreign exchange, swaps and other derivative products. Commission revenues rose eight per cent to \$563 million on strong revenues from mutual funds and other investment products, while asset management and custodial fees were up 11 per cent to \$212 million.

Net interest and dividend profit was up 63 per cent to \$252 million, surpassing a record set in the second quarter. In terms of expenses, costs were up 15 per cent to \$1.1 billion.

THE big food retailers appeared to be on every investor's shopping list, sporting double-figure gains in the hope that an end may be in sight to the food price war.

BZW was telling clients that inflation among the food retailers was showing signs of bottoming out and could even be set to rise by a full point before Christmas. Bill Curry, food retailing analyst at BZW, said three factors had come into play that would provide the retailers with scope to increase sales levels.

Prices of fresh food produce had fallen dramatically this year and were now showing signs of recovery. The pound's devaluation made food imports more expensive and food manufacturers were squeezing through price rises that would have to be absorbed by the retailers.

Mr Curry said that the price rises offered the supermarkets the opportunity to raise their own prices.

Of the big retailers, Mr Curry prefers Argyl, 14p better at 364p. He says Tesco, up 10p at 242p, still has a few problems and J Sainsbury, 17p higher at 487p, is already highly rated.

The rest of the equity market made a hesitant start, depressed by reports that Smith New Court, the stockbroker, had bought up to £100 million of stock from one institution and hedged its position by selling 1,000 FT-SE 100 index futures contracts.

But as the session wore on, investors grew in confidence, helped by a revival on the futures market and the announcement of the latest cut in

mortgage rates by the Abbey National. A firm start to dealings on Wall Street enabled the FT-SE 100 index to finish near its best of the day, 27.5 up at 2,584.7 in thin trading that saw only 470 million shares change hands. Brokers remain confident of a cut in interest rates soon.

BICC fell 9p to 251p, after touching 245p, on talk of a

profit downgrading by Cazenove, the company's own broker, and a large line of stock on offer. Smith New Court was also said to be a seller of stock at about the 248p level.

Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the Anglo-French paper group, recovered from an early fall to finish 1p firmer at 158p as a line of 3 million shares went

through the market at 152½p. Warburg Securities, the stockbroker, was thought to have completed the business.

Henderson Administration, the fund management group, jumped 37p to 655p after announcing plans to buy Touche Remnant, its rival, from Societe Generale, the French bank. The merger will create a company with 89

million shares, valued at £1.2 billion. The deal was announced on Monday, the day after the company's 20th birthday.

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Regulators can help Dan-Air

Saving Dan-Air in anything like its present form is clearly going to present a headache for the regulators. The only possible deal to bail out the financially stretched carrier may emerge out of a sketchy set of proposals from British Airways. These are being refined in delicate negotiations between BA and Davies & Newman, the parent company of Dan-Air. They seem so fraught with problems that there is less than a 50-50 chance of success. Since Richard Branson, the chief of Virgin Atlantic, noisily broke off discussions with Davies & Newman, no alternative other than BA has emerged.

The regulatory headache arises mostly from BA's insistence that the usual leisurely deliberations by regulators over planned airline mergers are not merely forestalled but eliminated altogether. The other local difficulty is that if BA is given the go-ahead, Virgin has threatened to set up in competition on Dan-Air's European routes and British Midland, another of BA's smaller but vigorous rivals, will doubtless shout its demands for an MMC investigation from the rooftops and any other platform which may be at hand.

BA's case is that at present, the bones of a company worth saving survives within Dan-Air. The almost mandatory reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that would follow a rescue proposal would involve delays on a scale that would significantly increase the risk of eventual collapse. There is some merit in this argument. Operations such as Dan-Air depend heavily on the confidence of travel agents and passengers. The longer uncertainty surrounds the future of a carrier, the less viable it becomes. Even rumours of financial difficulties tend to become self-fulfilling unless they can be scotched quickly. Virgin's triple forte intervention to rescue Dan-Air but without putting up any hard cash was doomed to failure but the highly publicised announcement of that failure was deeply damaging to Dan-Air.

Unless David James, the resourceful corporate recovery expert who now chairs Davies & Newman can find more cash, the regulators face a tough choice. They either allow Dan-Air to fail or permit the transfer of more routes to the mighty BA as part of a partial rescue which will nevertheless save perhaps 2,000 jobs.

At present it is hard to see why the protests of Virgin and British Midland, who are patently not willing or able to save Dan-Air themselves, should stand in the way of a scheme which will save jobs and limit damage to shareholders and the bankers who put up cash for last year's capital reconstruction. The regulators should be able to see to it that the rescue does not operate against the public interest. That after all is what they are for.

Minimising Max

Among the worst of Robert Maxwell's legacies is that people tend to expect only bad news from his former companies. This has certainly been the case at Mirror Group. This Max factor has tended to obscure the fact that the Mirror group is a sound business with a powerful market position and is capable of substantially higher profits in the years to come. The trend is hard to discern because of the board's decision to omit comparative figures. But there is no gainsaying that MGN made operating profits of £49.4 million in the half year to end June, a period when most media continued to suffer from the worst advertising recession since the mid 1970s. What MGN needs next is new leadership to take over from the emergency postings made in the aftermath of Robert Maxwell's death. In a few years time the story may have a far less unhappy ending than we ever thought possible.

Seven years on, and Westland has drawn its own survival blueprint

Graham Searjeant describes the changes that await Michael Heseltine today as he revisits Britain's only helicopter maker

Whether permitting Michael Heseltine to embark in a helicopter this morning and make the 40-minute journey to Yeovil in Somerset to visit one of his department's clients. Nothing may seem more natural than a sponsoring minister checking up on the progress of the EH101 heavy civilian helicopter project, in which the DTI has invested £60 million. But this is no ordinary company: it is Westland.

The president of the Board of Trade, and former defence secretary, would have to be inhuman for his thoughts not to stray, during the journey, to the January day in 1986 when he walked out of a Cabinet meeting, not to return until 1990.

If only Britain's sole helicopter manufacturer had not stared financial ruin in the face because of a long hiatus in orders from the defence ministry. If only the defence secretary's preference for Westland to become part of a single, powerful, pan-European supplier had not clashed with the company's preference, shared by Lord Britton's DTI and the prime minister, for a reconstruction aided by Sikorsky, its old American partner.

If only Sir John Cuckney, then chairman of Westland, had not been a more professional in-fighter than either of the ministers. If only Lord Hanson had not bought a key stake in Westland at the critical moment to back the American deal.

British political history might have been different, just as it might have been if the Chancellor and foreign secretary of that time had not successfully used the threat of resignation over another "European" issue. With hindsight, the affairs of a medium-sized defence contractor look the trigger for a Cabinet battle rather than its underlying cause.

In Yeovil, it is hard for many to remember what all the fuss was really about. When Mr Heseltine meets Alan Jones, who was brought in from Plessey as chief executive in 1989 by Sir Leslie Fletcher, Westland's new chairman, he will find a different, more confident company. Its progress has borne out scarcely any of the arguments that raged when Westland hit the headlines.

The visitor will certainly be welcome. Mr Jones says: "Michael Heseltine has a long track record of vigorous support for British industry in world trade. We hope he will help us sell lots of helicopters." Westland is also keen for his support in government for the EH101 as a Nato battlefield helicopter.

The deal with United Technologies, parent of Sikorsky, did not work out as planned by the company or as feared by opponents. Sikorsky provided valuable work in the darkest



Rising confidence: Alan Jones, chief executive of Westland, sees an eventual market for 750 EH101s

days. A prominent element of the deal, however, was for Westland to have a licence to build the Black Hawk battlefield helicopter. In the event, Westland has built only one prototype. The nearest to a sale was a contract about to be signed with the United Arab Emirates when the Gulf war heated up. The UAE made a hefty contribution to allied costs included. Nearly 90 Black Hawks are included in Al Yamamah 2, the huge long-term deal between British Aerospace and Saudi Arabia, but Westland is not holding its breath. Mr Jones says he still hopes for the order eventually. "The Black Hawk licence is still a valuable asset and I am very glad we have it." Meanwhile, Westland's main technical connection with Sikorsky is the ageing Sea King, derived from a Sikorsky design and still selling in modest numbers.

Still less has Westland fallen under the financial control of the world's biggest helicopter company, GKN, the engineering group, owns the biggest holding: it amassed 22 per cent by buying stakes from Hanson and from Fiat. Sikorsky's original partner in the reconstruction, with a view to an eventual takeover that now looks far less likely. United Technologies, though represented on the board, owns just 7.6 per cent of the company.

Without help from the Black Hawk, Westland adopted a different strategy to cope with the order gap, much accelerated since Mr Jones took the pilot's seat. Apart from

continuing bread-and-butter sales of various versions of the medium-sized military Lynx, of which 370 have now been sold, plus a few Sea Kings, the helicopter division has changed orders to convert and upgrade its customers' fleets. In particular, the group has developed a strong expertise in composite materials and designed a new generation of rotor blades for the Lynx and Sea King that give greater lift, speed, economy and cold weather performance. Mr Jones thinks that reductions in Nato defence spending and rapid changes in requirements will bring a greater

'Apart from orders, Mr Heseltine will find a firm European helicopter group, if not the single procurement source that he once envisaged'

market for adapting and improving, while completely new, big projects will become a rarity.

Westland cut costs to become profitable on a lean order book and changed management to get away from the old cost-plus defence industry culture. In the past two years, Mr Jones has eliminated £50 million of annual costs, reducing anything from layers of middle management to the cost of exhibiting at air shows, as well as paring capacity. Given that pre-tax profits have been running between £21 and £26 million since 1989, and should be within that range for the year ended September 30, this has

been crucial. Two thirds of the senior management cadre has also been changed, about half bringing internal promotions. The two main non-helicopter subsidiaries, which make composite aircraft components and aircraft air conditioning systems, have also seen big changes. Westland Aerospace, on the Isle of Wight, has replaced the declining hovercraft business with a world-class speciality making composite engine housings and other high performance body parts for the civil market. Group employment has shrunk from 12,000 to 8,500 and, Mr Jones claims, cash costs are lower than in 1988. He says: "We have had to make our capacity match the actual market, rather than what we think the market ought to be. Then we can pursue profitable orders rather than beg."

For all this good housekeeping, the future depends on the EH101. In 1985, this joint project with Agusta, the Italian state-owned helicopter firm, seemed in danger of faltering at the development stage. Now it looks a world beater, capable of carrying 30 people rapidly, in all weathers, over a range of 500 miles and with the safety of three engines.

A year ago, the MoD finally placed its crucial initial £1.5 billion fixed-price order, using IBM as contract manager, for 44 EH101s for the Royal Navy, where they will eventually replace the Sea Kings. This is worth about £850 million to Westland. Last Thursday, EH Industries, the joint Westland/Agusta company, signed

an equally crucial deal with the Canadian government, its first third-party customer, for another 50, mainly for search and rescue operations. This deal is worth £2 billion including spares. Westland will build £500 million worth, with more assembly going to Agusta under the 50/50 arrangement in EH Industries, as will the 16 to be ordered by Italy before the year end.

Westland is now investing £50 million in production tooling, training and building an unprecedented customer support operation to back ease of maintenance. Production will not start in earnest until 1994-5, when the first delivery is due, building up over two years to a rate that will double the helicopter division's £311 million turnover, on the way to joint capacity of 48 per year.

Mr Jones, who likes to ban optimism from his calculations, sees an eventual market of 750 in all versions. He believes he can now finance working capital for civil sales without strain. Westland aims to sell to the RAF as well as the Navy and hopes for a market for 250 EH101s as a standard Nato utility troop-carrier, claiming support from the commander of the planned rapid reaction force.

A further 250 have been mentally booked for the civilian versions that will most interest Mr Heseltine, with an initial target of 58. Westland has high hopes of taking over the North Sea market, previously filled by the Chinook, as well as similar offshore transport work. Further ahead, Mr Jones sees a role for the EH101 as a commuter feeder for airlines' hub and spoke systems, where higher operating costs could be offset by saving runway slots at busy airports. Apart from orders and optimism, Mr Heseltine will find a firm European helicopter grouping, if not the single procurement source he once envisaged. Mr Jones thinks that, as international helicopter design is rationalised, three permanent groupings might emerge: Sikorsky, the world leader; Eurocopter, the Franco-German venture featured in Mr Heseltine's earlier plan, and Westland/Agusta.

Once the EH101 is in full production, Mr Jones reckons that the Westland/Agusta helicopter operations, including those outside EH Industries, will be at least as big as those of Eurocopter, an unhappy marriage where French management has predictably taken full control. How EH, short for European Helicopter, will develop, is anyone's guess.

Mr Jones envisages building on something like European Community principles of an ever closer union without a merger. EH Industries could take on further projects, using its basic principle of sharing production and avoiding duplication of overheads. In the EH101, for instance, Westland makes the rotors and floors, Agusta the gears and upper fuselage. Much will depend on GKN and on the government in Italy, where Agusta is currently a subsidiary of a bankrupt state holding company. That could give Mr Heseltine some thoughts on his return flight.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Banking's phoenix

TEN years after the controversial death in London of Roberto Calvi, the banker dubbed "God's banker", Banco Ambrosiano Veneto, the remodelled successor to the collapsed Banco Ambrosiano, has opened its first branch in London's Cornhill in the City. It is being headed by Count Franco Allarano Lanza, 52, one of the most experienced Italian bankers in London. To mark the event, Lanza is throwing a party at Merchant Taylor's hall next month. Lanza arrived in London in 1970, working for the Banca Commerciale Italiana, married his English wife, Rosemary, and eschewed a career in Italy with BCI by joining the London branch of Banca Nazionale del Lavoro. He was chosen last year to head Ambrosiano's London branch by Giovanni Buzoli, its chairman and the man who rebuilt the bank in Italy. The bank claims that, at least in banking circles, it is no longer linked with the Calvi scandal. "Sometimes someone's mother-in-law who doesn't know about banking will ask what the connections are," the suave and aristocratic Lanza admits. "Professionals know Ambrosiano is a completely new bank with the management to make a success out of the ashes of the old Ambrosiano."

May marches

NO SOONER had Nomura caught its breath after boasting that it was finally expand-



ing in the UK, at a time when western firms were being forced to retrench, than a letter of resignation was being penned by one of its key analysts, Trevor May, insurance specialist. May, who had been with Nomura for four years, yesterday signed a contract with rival "western" firm BZW. Previously employed by UBS Phillips & Drew, May has covered European and UK insurance companies, but his brief at BZW is to follow UK stocks only. He is due to start on December 12 and will fill a vacancy created several months ago when David Hudson and Alan Curtis left BZW to join CL-Laing.

SGST reunion

TWO former Scrimgeour Kemp Gee colleagues will be reunited at the beginning of next month when Robert Kandel, 44, a veteran with 23 years experience in the City, starts work at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull. Kandel, an equity salesman who had begun to concentrate on corporate marketing until he left

UBS Phillips & Drew in March, will be returning to his first love at SGST, by again becoming a general UK equity salesman. Julian Burn-Callander, his new boss, reveals that he and Kandel have worked together before. "We were in rival equity sales teams at Scrimgeour," Burn-Callander says. "He is very experienced indeed and we are delighted to have him."

Weighty addition

INVESTORS who have been dabbling in the stock market for 20 years or more may experience a sense of déjà vu when they learn of the arrival of another David Graham-Wood. Graham-Wood Jr, born on Sunday, is the first son — and second child — of James Capel's Malcolm Graham-Wood, a generalist salesman, who is also a specialist in the oil sector. The baby weighed in at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, at 8lb 15oz, a weight that will not surprise those who know his father. "He is a real little bruiser," the proud dad exclaims, before admitting that he weighs more than 18 stones. The child has been named after his paternal grandfather, who made something of a name for himself in the City when he floated the family firm, Graham Wood Steel Group in 1972 and, six years later, sold out to British Steel. "He sold out at the top of the market, for quite a few millions — I was never quite sure how many — but I haven't seen any of it," Malcolm laments.

CAROL LEONARD

Lifblood of the economy depends on start-up capital

From Mr John Donaldson Sir, Innovative ideas for new products and processes are the economy's lifblood. The importance of new businesses as sources of innovation has long been recognised. There is, however, a void left by the abandonment of "start-ups" by the capital supply institutions. Business introduction services seek to fill this void, but most such services flounder or quickly disappear. Business expansion finance is widely regarded as a squandering of vital resources.

Some of the problems and their causes are obvious — depressed markets, banks and venture capital institutions cautious after investing in the rash of false-promising, fashionable and dazzling, but ill-considered technologies (quite apart from the uprush of frauds, scandals etc).

The most serious problems are in the grey area between skill, judgment and values in

the capital-supply sectors. For instance, banks are cited as claiming that the real shortage is of good propositions, but their record in distinguishing good from bad is undistinguished, and their criteria and methods for distinguishing are far from clear.

It is undeniable that there is a good deal of skill and experience, but there is much room for doubt on the way it is focused and used. Some schemes for filling the void are not what they are reported to be.

For example, one major utility, reported in a business ethics publication as having a special fund to encourage innovative ideas, turns out to operate the same criteria as other capital supply organisations, with a further restriction that the innovations needed to be specific to the utility's own operation.

The costs of even applying for finance, while maintaining

patents and producing prototypes prohibit many would-be innovators. Rather than providing a bridge, even state grants are not operational until the cumbersome and risk-averse private institutions have supported new projects.

There is clearly a need for an informed dialogue between innovators and capital suppliers, and for cheaper support services for innovation, especially in new companies. It would be salutary and instructive to have information published by the major institutions to show those projects that were funded and why, and why not, and the subsequent history of the projects.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DONALDSON,
Chairman,
Centre for Service Management Studies
14 Charvil House Road,
Reading,
Berkshire.

Voting rules

From the President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants
Sir, Jon Astworth did us proud with his atmospheric piece (October 8) on the institute's first open council meeting, although I am not sure that the women members of council would recognise themselves from the bit about dark suits.

On the substance of the meeting, however, perhaps I could set the record straight. On the new system of electing the institute's vice-president, the council decided that candidates should be able to issue statements setting out their views on current issues and to canvass votes, and that the votes cast for each candidate should be made known after

the election. None of this is very exciting stuff, but not is it "the call for greater secrecy" which Mr Astworth reported. Yours faithfully,
W.D. PLAISTOWE,
President,
The Institute of Chartered Accountants,
PO Box 433,
Chartered Accountants' Hall,
Moorgate Place, EC2.

Small audits

From Mr John W. Miley
Sir, At one of the sessions at the recent annual conference of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland I probed Mr Ian Hay Davidson, the distinguished accountant, as to his mission to have the audit of small limited companies abolished.

relied heavily on the apparent impossibility of applying an audit to companies which neither had records or bank accounts. While I took this on board (without being convinced with regard to the main argument), I began to wonder afterwards whether Mr Hay Davidson and his fellow protagonists approve of granting the privilege of limited liability to companies which do not have a bank account or meaningful records.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN W. MILEY,
Miley and Company,
Chartered Accountants,
Malahide, Co Dublin.

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Portfolio

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No	Company	Group	Share or lots
1	BPI Ind	Building/Rts	
2	Lon Ind	Industrial	
3	Soco Grp	Business Serv	
4	NFC	Transport	
5	Green Trust	Water	
6	Rail Elect	Electrical	
7	Ashtley (Lund)	Drugs/Pharm	
8	Fin An Dev	Drugs/Pharm	
9	Archer (A)	Insurance	
10	Adair (A)	Insurance	
11	Northern Elec	Electrical	
12	Coventry	Industrial	
13	Smith David	Chem/Pharm	
14	Smith David	Chem/Pharm	
15	Manor-Sw	Electrical	
16	Highland Dist	Breweries	
17	BAA	Transport	
18	Thames TV	Leisure	
19	Ash & Lacy	Industrial	
20	Prudential	Insurance	
21	Ashtley (Lund)	Drugs/Pharm	
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Please take into account any minus signs

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1992 High Low Company Price Div % Yld % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1	Barclays	100	1.5	4.5	10.0
2	HSBC	100	1.5	4.5	10.0
3	London & Lancashire	100	1.5	4.5	10.0
4	Midland	100	1.5	4.5	10.0
5	Norfolk & Norwich	100	1.5	4.5	10.0
6	Paragon	100	1.5	4.5	10.0
7	Prudential	100	1.5	4.5	10.0
8	Standard Bank	100	1.5	4.5	10.0
9	Union Bank	100	1.5	4.5	10.0
10	Windsor	100	1.5	4.5	10.0

BREWERIES

1	Adnams	100	1.5	4.5	10.0
2	Beck's	100	1.5	4.5	10.0
3	Brewery	100	1.5	4.5	10.0
4	Carlsberg	100	1.5	4.5	10.0
5	Guinness	100	1.5	4.5	10.0
6	Heineken	100	1.5	4.5	10.0
7	King	100	1.5	4.5	10.0
8	Labatt	100	1.5	4.5	10.0
9	Miller	100	1.5	4.5	10.0
10	Stout	100	1.5	4.5	10.0

BUILDING, ROADS

1	Amey	100	1.5	4.5	10.0
2	Balfour Beatty	100	1.5	4.5	10.0
3	Bechtel	100	1.5	4.5	10.0
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6	Bechtel	100	1.5	4.5	10.0
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1992 High Low Company Price Div % Yld % P/E	1992 High Low Company Price Div % Yld % P/E
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MONEY MARKETS

Exchange Index compared with 1985 was up (day's range 83.3-83.5).			
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD			
	Rate	Close	1 mo
Amsterdam	2.0385-1.8555	2.8434-2.8503	
Brussels	1.5156-1.5213	1.9156-2.028	
Copenhagen	0.7825-0.8005	0.7880-0.8030	
Dublin	0.9540-0.9675	0.8945-0.9568	
Frankfurt	2.5735-2.5840	2.2122-2.2220	
London	2.5735-2.5840	2.2122-2.2220	16-83
Madrid	179.80-182.90	211.00-182.90	
Milan	232.80-242.40	222.80-223.60	
Osaka	2.1180-2.1386	2.1184-2.1286	0.35-0.40
New York	1.7050-1.7110	1.7100-1.7170	0.83-0.90
Osaka	10.7110-10.7270	10.7110-10.7270	
Paris	8.5710-8.6170	8.5710-8.5850	
Stockholm	0.4950-0.5340	0.5100-0.5340	3-4-83
Tokyo	10.7110-10.7270	10.7110-10.7270	
Vienna	1.7777-1.7917	1.7777-1.7817	
Zurich	2.2497-2.2604	2.2552-2.2582	2-2-83
Source: Data			

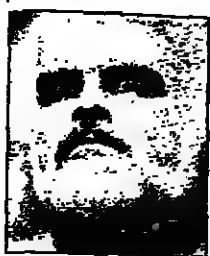
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0.538-0.647	Austria	10
17691.5-11691.8	Belgium (Com)	30
	Canada	1,243

ly was to open	Spice points 12.95-13.00	Denmark	
	Grain market 7.995-8.005	France	
	Grain discounts 326.52-330.98	Germany	
	Hong Kong dollar 1.13228-1.134	Hong Kong	
	India rupee 4.995-5.005	Italy	
	Korean dollar KD 0.4995-0.495	Japan	
	Malaysia ringgit 4.2901-4.2946	Netherlands	
-0.05	Mexico peso 5.270-5.570	Norway	
-0.10	New Zealand dollar 3.1611-1.689	Sweden	
-0.05	Saudi Arabia riyal 5.449-4.56	Switzerland	
-0.05	Singapore dollar 2.7572-2.7612	Portugal	
-0.05	S. Africa rand (Std) 7.4347-7.6045	Singapore	
-0.05	S. Africa rand (nom) 4.9034-4.908	Spain	
	U. A. E. dirham 6.2175-5.3025	Sweden	
	Barclays Bank GTIS • Lyons Bank	Switzerland	

MONEY RATES			
Discount Rates: Clearing Banks 9 Finance Row 10% Base Rate: Discount Loans 0/night high 1% Treasury Bills (Discount): 2 mth 8 1/2, 3 mth 8 1/2, 6 mth 8 1/2, 9 mth 8 1/2, 12 mth 8 1/2			
Prime Bank Bills (Disk)	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth
Bank of America	8 1/2-8 3/4	8 1/2-8 3/4	8 1/2-8 3/4
Bank of Montreal	8 1/2-8 3/4	8 1/2-8 3/4	8 1/2-8 3/4
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Bank of Spain	8 1/2-8 3/4	8 1/2-8 3/4	8 1/2-8 3/4
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Bank of Switzerland	8 1/2-8 3/4	8 1/2-8 3/4	8 1/2-8 3/4
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Bank of India	8 1/2-8 3/4	8 1/2-8 3/4	8 1/2-8 3/4
Bank of China	8 1/2-8 3/4	8 1/2-8 3/4	8 1/2-8 3/4
Bank of Japan	8 1/2-8 3/4	8 1/2-8 3/4	8 1/2-8 3/4
Bank of Korea	8 1/2-8 3/4	8 1/2-8 3/4	8 1/2-8 3/4
Bank of Siam	8 1/2-8 3/4	8 1/2-8 3/4	8 1/2-8 3/4
Bank of Ceylon	8 1/2-8 3/4	8 1/2-8 3/4	8 1/2-8 3/4
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OPERA page 30
New World spectacular:
Timothy Noble plays
Columbus in Philip
Glass's thrilling opera

ARTS

GALLERIES page 31
Paris goes Picasso
crazy: Richard Cork
reviews a superb show
at the Grand Palais



LITERATURE: Britain's favourite book-hunter interviewed; a blast at feeble novel-covers; and the Paris library row

Sold to the man in the blazer

Drift in person is as quirky as his celebrated guide to second-hand bookshops. Profile by Martin Cropper

Mike Goldmark, the bookseller and art entrepreneur recently described as "the Medic of Uppingham", observes: "Our country needs the Drifts of this world. Drift is a remarkable character and a great eccentric. I've never fallen out with him in the 15 or 17 years he's been a customer. I have fairly broad shoulders," he continues, "but someone's got to stop him. I am consulting my lawyers."

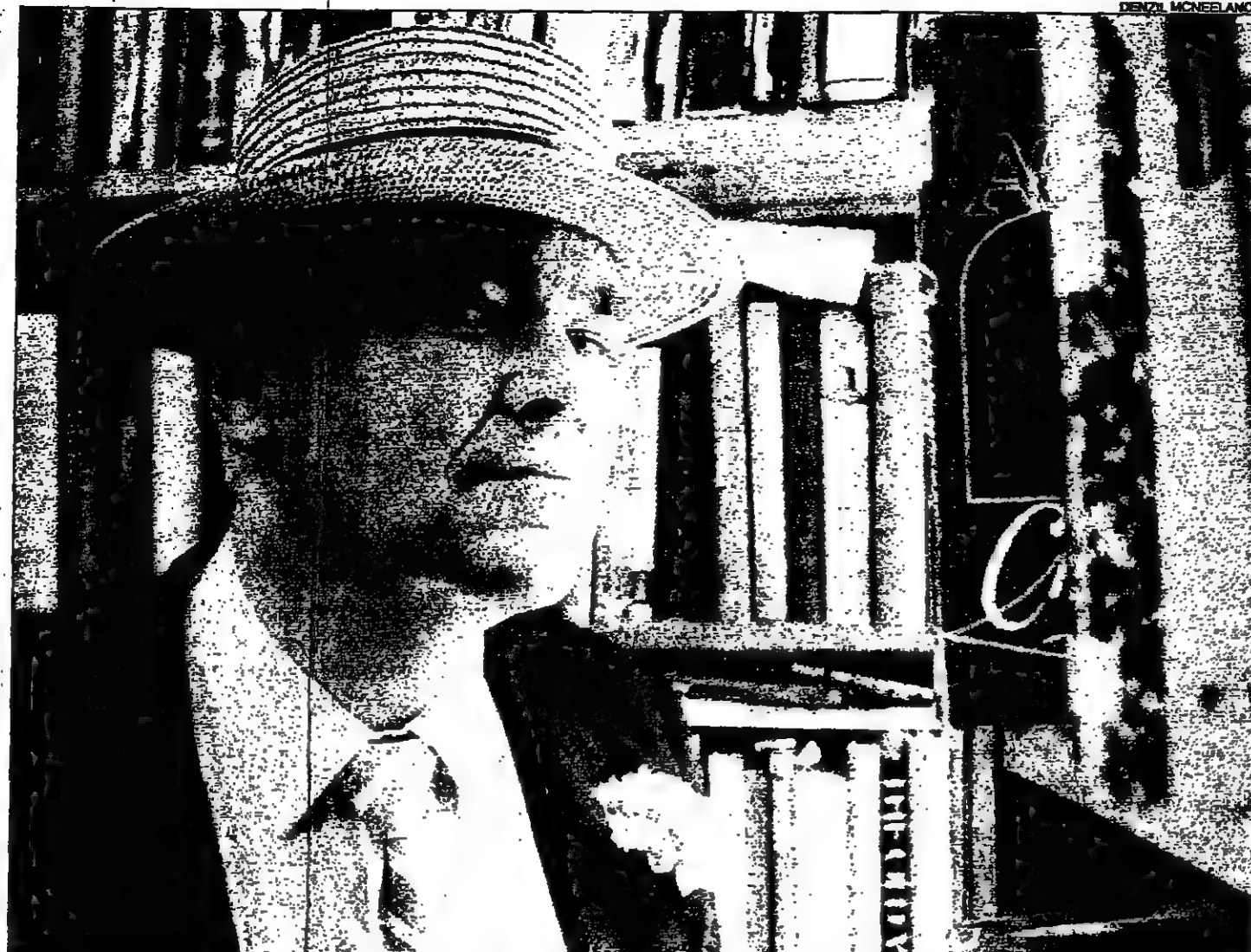
Drift, the bellicose, spring-heeled book-hunter who has never been described as the Macenas of Dalton, snorts: "I get very, very upset at being called eccentric. It's the one way to irritate me."

There are in fact a myriad ways to irritate Drift (he now spells his name Drift, but no one else does): driving a car; wearing a British Rail uniform; breathing. His annual *Drift's guide to the second-hand bookshops of the British Isles* is a notorious hedgehog of opinion: *Drift contra mundum*. Entire communities are consigned to the dustbin of social history; scores of pages spit rivets at national institutions, beggars, pawns, Lefties, charity shops and (altogether, now) "the British press". Named individuals are variously bared or perverted; Hay-on-Wye should be burnt to the ground. Sometimes it is as though one of Ian Nairn's illuminating and highly personal topographies had been revamped by Jeffrey Bernard on a bad morning.

Goldmark claims that what Drift has done this time is to publish a factual error about his surveillance cameras, and compound it with insulting remarks. "My partner made me tone the entry down," Drift protests in defence.

Creative abuse is a tightrope act, and when Drift slips he becomes one of the bodes he warns us against. His critical faculty is vanishingly small. His published work is sufficed with practical observations and spiky jokes, and haunted by rebarbative cliché.

The *Bookdealer* terms this year's model "as dull as it is long". True, the typeface has become unnecessarily readable, and the listed shops parade bold innovations such as



"Fundamentally Victorian" Drift may often be spotted shouldering his way down Charing Cross Road in blazer and boater

telephone numbers and postcodes. The guide looks almost as though it is striving for the kind of respectability that would warm the cockles of W.H. Smith.

"Drift is fundamentally Victorian," proposes Iain Sinclair, the poet/bookdealer/novelist whose debut *White Chappell* featured a dealer named Dryfield. Drift serialised the novel in his failed *Book Fortnightly*. Goldmark later published the first, limited, edition.

Sinclair knows his man, having chauffeured him thousands of tough miles in search of bibliomane's motherlode: he will tell you of nights in cheap provincial hotels when the teetotal, non-smoking, non-driving vegetarian insisted on falling asleep with light and radio full on — supposedly a throwback to his experience of jail.

"I've done time in The Tombs," Drift volunteers of his historic misunderstanding with the au-

thorities in New York, after which he was deported. A friend of mine owns a copy of *The Count of Monte Cristo* inscribed in the true Driftian hand: "This is the only book that kept me sane in jail."

Drift is avid for knowledge, a true autodidact, a bookdealer who actually reads. He can be an appalling earbender. Chronic pet themes include suicide and the literature of adult bedwetting. His dogmatism is insatiable and ultimately rather crass. He seems to inhabit a solipsistic psychodrama in which all phenomena, including human beings, may be reduced to the status of props.

The vaudevillean aspects of his relentless self-promotion will be seen in a bizarre and frustratingly compressed telefilm, *The Cardinal and The Corpse* in Channel 4's *Without Walls* season. Written by

Iain Sinclair and directed by Chris Petit, and starring the likes of Michael Moorcock and Tony Lambrianou, the film tries its damndest to be coherent about book-hunting.

According to Petit, Drift virtually took over the direction. "He has natural continuity. He's on all the time. Lambrianou gave up the contest."

Drift often wears kilts or plus-fours; he owns hunting pink. As though sponsored by the London Tourist Board, he may be clocked shouldering his way down Charing Cross Road in blazer and boater, en route from a choice find on behalf of Peter Ackroyd or Jack Higgins to a bracing snack at Cranks. Could this be the man who claims to have been Lynn Barber's toyboy? La Barber emits a skit of laughter. "You mean he says he's younger than me? I'm 47 and I come from Richmond, and as far as I know,

Drift's the same."

But no one even knows his real name. Drift is truly self-invented. One or two things I "know" about him: he is a Catholic-educated old lag, a sari-fetishist, a 1960s anarchist who dwelt in an all-black room festooned with human skulls above a failed free bookstall on Ponobello Road.

He doesn't deny that he was once discovered in the lavatory of a junior school practising an abstruse form of suicide with a roller towel. I do actually know for certain that he has promised to die in 1999. In the meantime, you pays your money... This is an enigma in search of an agent.

Until further notice, drifts guide 1992/93 is published by drift field guides, Box No F, 41 North Road, London N7, at £9.99 plus £1.25 postage. *The Cardinal and The Corpse* goes out on Channel 4 on December 1

Booker judged by its covers

Instead of making books look irresistible, dustjacket designers let the author down with dull images — as last night's finalists showed

Why are cover designs for novels usually so execrable? Even the contenders on the Booker shortlist are saddled with jackets dull enough to alienate everyone except the most zealous of fiction addicts. The disparity between the blubs and the images on the front is glaring enough to be laughable.

Michael Ondaatje's *The English Patient* is described as "a breathtaking story of love and passion". But the cover, by AB3 Design, concentrates on a faded, battered photograph of a turbaned figure climbing a rock face. At least, I think that's what he's doing. The photograph has been so drained of visual interest that the image is hard to decipher.

Perhaps publishers believe that baffling the prospective book-buyer is a sophisticated design strategy. Some such thinking appears to be behind Jamel Akib's jacket for Christopher Hope's *Serenity House*. Akib has produced a little inset picture for the spine of the cover as well — in theory, a welcome and unusual idea. In practice, though, it turns out to be a puzzling detail from the main jacket design. I can just about make out a wheelchair, a fire and some floating faces. But from a distance, where potential customers always find themselves in bookshops, the image means nothing.

The opportunity to create a genuinely disturbing jacket has likewise been squandered in the Senate's design for Michèle Roberts' *Daughters of the House*. The blurb talks of "secrets and lies" in an old Normandy house, filled with "guilty silences". On the cover, though, a banal photograph of a French residence is mixed with collaged fragments of a childhood snapshot, a saint and a painted plate. The effect is staid rather than disturbing.

Picador shows some sign of grasping the elementary principle of an eye-catching cover. As well as starting the blurb for Patrick McCabe's *The Butcher Boy* with a "welcome to the frightening world of Francis Brady", it commissioned Rob McCaig to produce a macabre image for the cover. Below a dark background, a man's leering face stares at us. Red-eyed, wicked and probably toothless, he does belong to the "jagged world of scorn and fear" puffed within.

At least the cover succeeds, this time, in seizing our attention at once. Suzanne Dean shows a similar ambition in her design for Barry Unsworth's *Sacred Hunger*, a "powerful and wide-reaching" novel about the 18th-century slave trade. Her image subscribes to the repetitive principle. Row upon row of black, manacled figures stretch across the jacket front and back. Interspersed at one point with three horizontal slaves, presumably to signify death, the image should be relentless and oppressive. But it ends up merely decorative, turning human suffering into little more than pattern-making.

Peter Dyer, who designed the cover for Ian McEwan's *Black Dogs*, is shrewd enough to realise that a single image can be more effective than endless reiteration. Using a photograph taken by David Moore, he resists the temptation to fill the space with a pack of



Success by Rob McCaig

hounds. A single dog is shown here, caught in blurred silhouette. The animal looks rather ominous, but in the end the photograph comes nowhere near conveying the struggle with radical evil explored by McEwan.

Judging by the feeble crop of designs for the Booker shortlist, authors are being inexcusably betrayed by the very people who should be making their fiction look, in a word, irresistible.

RICHARD CORK

Caribbean odyssey with London as the next stop

THE South Bank Centre in London has pulled off a coup — though more by good fortune than calculation. Months ago it booked the West Indian poet Derek Walcott as one of the speakers in its Poetry International festival beginning on October 30. At the time, Walcott was moderately celebrated in literary circles for his gigantic Caribbean adaptation of Homer, *Omeros*.

Now he is world famous, following last week's announcement that he has won the Nobel Prize for Literature. And subsequent stories in the American press concerning Walcott's relationships with his female students at Boston and Harvard universities have added quite a Byronic tinge to his reputation.

ARTS BRIEFING

So will the fitted Walcott keep his date to read poetry at the Purcell Room on November 7? "He's an honourable guy; he wouldn't dare not show up," says a South Bank official with poetic fervour.

With or without Walcott, however, the South Bank has lined up a walking anthology of today's top poets. It is led by such celebrated figures as the Russian Irina Ranshinskaya and the Czech Miroslav Holub, but also including poets from Mongolia, Slovenia, Malawi and Romania.

GREMLINS are plaguing the early days of the new Norwegian musical, *Which Witch*, which is hoping to repeat its Scandinavian triumph in the West End. Its first two previews were called off this week after a "technical delay" that was putting the production behind schedule. For the West End debut of the self-styled "operamusical" it has sets by Richard Hudson, a designer not noted for thinking small. But the *Which Witch* team remains optimistic: tonight's preview is scheduled to go ahead and it is still planned to open at the Piccadilly Theatre on October 22.

Doodle bug bites

NOT every day can we announce a new art form. But Subconscious Expressionism, otherwise known as desk-blotter doodling, may be just that. More than 200 doodle-covered blotters, created by the television producer Johnny Hamp in inspired moments during production meetings, will go on show at the Victoria and Albert Hotel in Manchester from next Tuesday.

The exhibition came as a surprise to Hamp, the brains behind the Sixties show *The Comedians*. It was his wife who insisted he had artistic talent, and showed the blotters to critics and gallery directors. The exhibition was put on as a result of their effusions.

George Melly took one look at the blotters and gushed: "To say I am impressed is to underestimate my feelings. They are quite beautiful." Bamber Gascoigne was equally struck by the felt-tip patterns. "Absolutely splendid. A rarity — fascinating art," he raved.

Last chance...

DANIELE GATTI is the young conductor in large part responsible for the high Bellini standards at Covent Garden (071-240 1066). After last season's outstanding *Puritani* he is back tonight for the final performance of Bellini's earlier *Capuleti e i Montecchi*. Anne Sofie von Otter and Amanda Roocroft are well up to the vocal demands and are considerably better looking than the sets. Forget about Shakespeare, though.

New chapter in library row

New clouds have gathered over the giant building site on the eastern edge of Paris where they are laying the foundations for the Bibliothèque de France, the much-vilified monster library which President Mitterrand hopes to bestow on the nation before his departure from office.

A Paris judge has charged Dominique Jamet, the director of the project, with breaking the law covering fairness in public works contracts. The charge follows a complaint from the CBC company about the circumstances in which the library corporation gave the £190 million construction contract to the Bouygues group. Jamet, a former newspaper editor and friend of Mitterrand, is not accused of making personal gain and the library's lawyers are calling CBC's complaint irresponsible and unfounded. "Obviously the charges will be dismissed," said Jamet, "but that will take time and the plaintiffs will have achieved their aim: to damage the image of the corporation."

It would in fact be hard to blacken the image of a scheme which has attracted more bad publicity than almost any French cultural project since the Eiffel Tower. Known mockingly as the Trés Grande Bibliothèque (TGB) after the Train à Grande Vitesse (TGV), the scheme has united intellectuals and politicians from all sides, including some of the president's friends, in opposition to what they see as a misconceived folly. Their first complaint was that the project, intended to be the world's biggest library, did not respond to the need to expand the overburdened Bibliothèque Nationale, as much as to the president's desire to build grand monuments to his reign. Paris has already acquired several of these expensive baubles, such as the Grande Arche de la Défense.

Charges of financial malpractice are only the latest disaster to befall President Mitterrand's scheme for the national library

The real row broke out last autumn when Mitterrand chose a design by Dominique Perrault, a young French architect. His library is a complex of four 250-foot tall glass and steel towers placed round a rectangular garden at Tolbiac, an area of old railway yards on the Left Bank of the Seine. "Spectacularly bad," said a petition signed by a battalion of eminent intellectuals. Perrault, they pointed out incredulously, had reversed the usual rules, placing the books in high-rise glass and steel towers and putting the readers underground. Mitterrand stuck to his guns, ordering only a couple of floors to be trimmed from the towers and a few other revisions, last February.

Since then, nothing has changed in the "war of the libraries" as the workers at Tolbiac have engaged in a race against the clock. Mitterrand hopes to inaugurate the TGB in his final month in office in May 1995. However his illness and France's political malaise have added extra urgency. Even if the president stays in office, parliamentary elections in March are almost certain to lead to a conservative government. A candidate for prime minister is Jacques Chirac, who is leader of the RPR party as well as mayor of Paris and a critic of the TGB. If the construction is not well advanced by that date, an opposition government could be tempted to close the book on the TGB, at least in its present form.

CHARLES BREMNER

SQUARE ROUNDS

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TONY HARRISON

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SARA KESTELMAN
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PARIS GALLERIES: Richard Cork reviews a sumptuous show that celebrates just one aspect of the genius of Pablo Picasso

Freeze-frames from a life

■ Pablo Picasso excelled in an astonishing range of artistic genres. An exciting new Paris exhibition is devoted to 50 years of his still lifes

With most artists, an exhibition concentrating solely on still-life images might produce a quiet, even monotonous experience. But Picasso, whose long obsession with *natura morta* is now surveyed in a magnificent show at the Grand Palais in Paris, never succumbed to dullness. Under his tirelessly inventive gaze, the most humdrum clusters of household utensils became transformed. Far from remaining static, they were galvanised by the energy, anxiety and sheer, unstoppable fertility of Picasso's ever-renewing vision.

Even the earliest painting on view, made in 1901 at the age of 20, gives a hint of the drama to come. Among an otherwise orderly and prettified assembly of flowers and mealtime objects on a white tablecloth, a glass lies on its side. The fallen vessel announces a subversive impatience which would soon catapult the young artist towards some of the most momentous discoveries in 20th-century art.

By 1907, when Picasso painted the superb *Composition with Skull* lent from the Hermitage, this turbulence is at its height. The inclusion of the *memento mori*, lodged among the clutter of pots, books and canvases in the artist's studio, makes him charge the whole picture with an air of menace. The other objects lurch and sway as if reacting to a storm at sea. And Picasso envisions their uneasy by deliberately clashing colours at every turn and changing the stem of a pipe into a sharply-pointed weapon.

Over the following years, as the Cubist imperative takes hold, he tries to steady these wild, Greco-like rhythms with a stern discipline worthy of Cézanne. But the vase, bowls and fruit-dish assembled so masterfully on the table-top in the summer of 1908 glow with a strange ferocity. They might almost be firing in a kiln. Even when the temperature cools, and he arrives at the exquisitely refreshing austerity of the *Fruit-dish* borrowed from New York, the table rises at a vertiginous angle and a carrot assumes the shape of a dagger.

The imagery of weapons was appropriate. Picasso now found himself at war with the entire tradition of western perspective, and he was determined to emerge victorious. The long French loaf rising up so commandingly from a table in his large Basle painting of 1909 is as sturdy as a broadsword. Propped behind an inverted cup, and echoed by a still more phallic baguette unfinished at the table's end, it asserts a presence more militant by far than the top-hatted drinker who occupied the same place in preliminary studies.

Hinting at a sacrificial altar in this impressive Basle canvas, Picasso seems to be sealing himself for the form-shattering offensive of full-blown Cubism. In a convulsive image, produced during the summer of 1909, he turned a liqueur bottle into a broken spectre, drained of all colour save white and grey. It lies on the table surrounded by the even more segmented forms of other objects, the multi-faceted victims of his urge to explode the Renaissance way of seeing once and for all.

Although Picasso never turned away completely from his fundamental preoccupation with the human figure, still life often served his purpose best during the Cubist

they, too, were exploring uncharted territory. For all its sobriety, Cubism was powered by a sense of exaltation. References to music, either in isolated words such as "Valse" or cut-paper scores, pepper the images of 1912-13 and heighten their celebratory temper.

There were, nevertheless, hints of a more disturbing alternative. The young man who had placed a skull in the forefront of his 1907 masterpiece now placed the up-ended claws of dead birds in one gruesome painting. The Balkan wars found their way into collages via headlines such as "La Bataille d'Engage", and long newspaper reports from the combat zone. Their yellowing presence discloses Picasso's awareness of the unrest which would soon erupt into the conflagration of world war.

On the whole, though, Picasso preferred to register his disquiet by indirect means. In an alarming little painting called *The Restaurant*, a well-fleshed chicken at the centre has been viciously skewered by a fork and a lethal-looking knife. The year was 1914, and by the autumn Picasso found that many of his closest allies had been dispersed by the hostilities. The whole exhilarating context of the pre-war Parisian avant-garde evaporated, and he would be profoundly affected.

After completing some unexpectedly sumptuous images in 1915, where Cubist severity is offset by Seurat-derived shafts of speckled, festive colour, he gradually began to question his language again. Rarely content to reiterate a well-worn formula, he thrived on restlessness and contradiction.

Cubism would always retain a vital place in his formal armoury, but Greco-Roman antiquity now made a formidable entry. Rounded volumes countered angular flatness, nowhere more provocatively than in a crowded canvas in which several small Cubist still lifes jostle for space with the sculptural weight of a solemn classical woman. Close-up studies of her head and hands reappear towards the top of the picture, in a wistful image where a young couple dance slowly by a deserted seashore.

We are returning, here, to the subject-matter of the Blue Period, but its sentimentality is mercifully absent. Instead, Picasso devotes a point painting to a simple earthenware jug surrounded by a plate containing two fat apples. The vessel seems as ripe as the fruit, and the lip of the jug curves down so sensually that a woman's open, inviting mouth is evoked.

Painted around 1920, this wonderfully teasing canvas inaugurates a new spirit of flamboyant fulfil-



Nature morte au compotier, Paris, oil on canvas, 1914-15. From the Columbus Museum of Art; on show at the Grand Palais

Other Paris exhibitions worth exploring

● Elsewhere in the capacious Grand Palais, a mammoth and absorbing survey explores the theme of *The Etruscans and Europe*. Spoilt showcases reveal the warrior figurines and armour from the eighth century BC with beguiling clarity, and the prodigious expansion of an empire which radiated outwards from Etruria (modern Tuscany) is made vividly understandable. Among the 650 items in this well-researched yet accessible exhibition, certain objects stand out. Among them is a painted Etruscan room, faded but still delectably frescoed, and an extraordinary bronze lion discovered in Arezzo, roaring as he waves his serpent's tail above his arched back. On a monumental sarcophagus of a married couple from the late sixth century BC they are affectionately intertwined as they recline on the lid. The quality of this outstandingly humane sculpture

helps to explain why Europe exploded with Etruscanism in the 16th century. *The Etruscans and Europe at the Grand Palais until Dec 14, opening hours as for Picasso.*

● A swift train-ride from the Gare du Nord brings you to the newly-opened *Historial de la Grande Guerre*, built next to a lake by the ancient chateau of Péronne. Determined to present an anti-heroic view of the first world war, this thoughtful museum displays at its centre Otto Dix's lacerating series of prints called *Der Krieg*. The history of the conflict is presented, through prints, drawings, paintings, photographs, film and ephemera. But the emphasis is on human experience, and showcases distinguish between German, French and British viewpoints. The emotional heartland is reached halfway round, when a split-screen au-

dio-visual display uses Britten's *War Requiem* and the memories of veteran Harry Fellows to elucidate the tragedy of the Somme. Unforgettable. *Historial de la Grande Guerre at the Chateau de Péronne, open 10am-7pm except Mon.*

● By far the most bizarre show I have seen this year can be found at the Jeu de Paume. Aptly named *Désordres*, this brings together five young artists unafraid to shock, astonish and even induce nausea. Jana Sterbak, for instance, repels us with her *Vanitas - Flesh Dress for an Albino Anorexic*, a garment made of blood-red meat stitched together in gory segments. *Désordres at the Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume, until Nov 8, open 12-7pm, Tue 12-9pm, Sat-Sun 10am-7pm, closed Mon.*

● As a timely contrast to the Picasso still-life exhibition, the Fondation Cartier has mounted a stimulating show devoted to *The Naked Face*. More than 200 images have been borrowed from international collections to present the face, not in terms of portraits, but as a revelation of different beliefs and emotional conditions. After showing how various cultures understood physiognomy, the survey moves on to explore extremes of feeling with the help of works by Bacon, Dix, Giacometti, Malevich and (inescapably) Picasso himself. Non-European alternatives are represented by Eskimo masks, Egyptian mummies and Mexican heads, while the gruesome reality of death is dramatised by disease-ridden African masks. *A visage découvert at the Fondation Cartier, Jouy-en-Josas, Rue de la Manufacture 3, daily 12-7pm until Oct 25.*

'Picasso was at war with the entire tradition of western perspective'

years. He probably found things more pliable than people. The awesome structural authority of his 1912 work seems dehumanised, as he transforms the assembled objects into gaunt, near-monochromatic devices. This is the work of an artist accustomed to moving around the streets of a great metropolis.

The use of words and letters confirms his desire to alleviate the hermetic silence of the studio. They punctuate the flattened surfaces like urban sounds heard outside the window, and in one painting Picasso spells out a phrase celebrating the pioneer exploits of pilots: "Notre avenir est dans l'air." While his collaboration with Braque was at its most intense, he once nicknamed his friend "Wilbour" in honour of Orville and Wilbur Wright. The two Cubists felt that

ROCK: Alan Jackson has advice for an American heart-throb

Let the voice speak for itself

flamboyant sax player too. And while the long hair and sculpted biceps add a fashionable hint of Chippendale, his gangling stage movements and amiable patter are reassuringly boy-next-door.

Not only does he have the sort of big, bruised, soul-influenced voice not often found in white male performers, but he is a songwriter and

Curtis Stigers
Town and Country

ever — at various times he leapt in the air, sank to his knees and flailed his hair about. It was as if he was embarrassed to exploit his greatest gift — a voice made to celebrate musical romance.

Michael Bolton has similar potential, but is fatally melodramatic. Not since the heyday of Bill Medley and David Clayton-Thomas in the 1960s has a male pop artist been similarly blessed with both range and a sense of restraint. All the more frustrating, then, when he wastes these qualities on flashy rock dramas such as "Dancing in a Rainstorm".

"I Wonder Why", Stigers's first hit, showed how good he can be when he plays his strongest suit, and provoked screams almost as loud as when he took off his jacket earlier in the set. It also highlighted the hackneyed nature of too much of his self-titled debut album.

Stigers may find he needs better songs and a more focused musical direction if he is to develop a significant career. Should he decide to place less emphasis on the rock god and more on the Romeo, he could really break some hearts.

TELEVISION REVIEW: Peter Barnard on a history of America's political dynasty

Smokin' Joe, founding father in a hurry

THE Cuban missile crisis and the assassination of John F. Kennedy occurred fortuitously for television. Both happened in the autumn, when people watch the box a lot. Cuba was 30 years ago this month, the Dallas shooting will have its 30th anniversary in November next year. No Kennedy archive will be left unturned this coming 12 months.

Last night Thames Television began its series, *The Kennedys*, with far the most interesting member of the clan: old Joe, the daddy of them all. All nine, with the first five born in the space of six years. Surprisingly, the programme's most interesting aspect was what it revealed about Joe's relationship with his children.

He doted upon them, much more so than did their mother, Rose. There were moments last night when the warmth of Joe's affection for the children (and theirs for him) all but obscured the fact that he was, indeed, an old rogue. Long before that, however, he was a young rogue.

Kennedy made his first few millions in the Twenties. He left behind the stifling, anti-Catholic, anti-Irish atmosphere among Boston's rich and went to Wall Street. He made money by buying shares cheaply in an unregulated market, conspiring with others to force prices artificially high and then selling. He told a friend: "I have to make this money fast, before they pass a law against it."

Years later, the market was regulated after President Roosevelt appointed Kennedy to investigate its practices. This was like sending a chocolate factory to regulate a chocolate factory but it worked, and Kennedy was praised.

He wanted to be president, but tripped over his own ego and his own lack of diplomatic judgment. Sent to London as ambassador to Britain, he set about publicising himself and his family. He opened so many things, he could hardly pass through a car door without first snipping a ribbon.

But he also became one of Chamberlain's apprentices, told the German ambassador he "understood Hitler's Jewish problem" and, the fatal self-inflicted wound, said in a newspaper interview after the war started, that democracy was "all done" in England. That, plus the fact that Kennedy was left on hold as Roosevelt and Churchill opened a direct line, left Joe Kennedy all done in politics.

Except by proxy. He wanted to make his oldest, most talented son, Joe Jr, president of the United States but Joe was killed in the war. So attention turned to Jack, a lesser intellect who had already shown a distracting propensity for horizontal socialising.

Jack became a district Congressman, thanks in part to old Joe contriving to split the important Italian vote. There was a Joseph Russo on the ballot, so another Joseph Russo was found and persuaded to stand. Two Russos were the making of one Kennedy. Thus

Joe's third career had made a fortune in movies after Wall Street, and had an affair with Gloria Swanson) was under way: he would be the making of the president.

The Kennedy children had the advantage that they had no need to earn money, for Joe had made enough for all of them. But Joe's money was new (and Irish-Catholic). Old, Protestant money is the kind that America respected, a peculiarly American snobbery. The Protestant rich never accepted Joe Kennedy and he never forgave them. The programme could have done more to explore this driving force, just as it could have better explored Joe's less endearing characteristics, such as his ruthless pursuit of the family's interests.

Joe Kennedy was right to resent those who resented him, but the resentment warped him. Americans say: don't get mad, get even. Joe Kennedy did both.

● Tomorrow: Geoff Brown on *Strictly Ballroom*

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country, from the largest West End theatre to the tiny Mull Little Theatre. Events will be organised at theatres all over the country giving you the opportunity to discover the rich variety of theatre available. When you join The Theatre Club you will receive a personalised membership card and a guide book giving details of all the participating theatres, so wherever you find yourself

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John Foster, the team leader, moving, Mr Foster said.

The practice that produces rewards

Training turns legal secretaries into specialists who can move into other professions. Beryl Dixon considers the possibilities

There are two contrasting images of a legal secretary. One is the loyal and dedicated woman typing away for 40 years for a pittance in a dusty solicitor's office. The other is the high-flying City secretary on an astronomical salary. Somewhere in between lies reality.

The first extreme does not exist, says the Institute of Paralegal Training, formerly known as the Institute of Legal Secretaries. "But certainly," the institute says, "pay in the provinces and in small practices is not on a par with that offered in large City firms." The annual survey by the Gordon Yates Recruitment Group confirmed that high salaries are paid in London and found that legal firms were "among the leaders for secretarial rewards". The financial services sector, where many legal secretaries are employed, scored even higher.

In both sectors, salaries are usually boosted by excellent benefits packages, including health cover, life assurance, interest-free season ticket loans, subsidised restaurants and sporting facilities and even preferential mortgages.

These are all earned, however. City secretaries work long hours,

often under pressure, as do their opposite numbers in large practices outside London. In international practices, 24-hour cover may be required, although this is often provided by word-processor operators, not secretaries.

Legal secretaries need specialist skills in the form of technical vocabulary and knowledge of legal procedures. Once trained, they have varied employment options,

Priority in recruitment is given to personality and high, accurate technical speeds

not only in legal practices but also in almost any large organisations with legal departments, including banks, airlines, insurance, shipping, and property development companies, and estate agencies. There are growing opportunities to work abroad, particularly for business secretaries with offices in large European cities. Those working for a British office staffed largely by expatriates may find that great linguistic fluency is not necessary.

Specialist legal secretarial courses are available. Is it necessary to take one? A course might be useful for anybody who knows that this field will be of interest. The syllabus includes legal typing, audio and shorthand, theoretical basics of English law and legal procedures, and provides a good grounding in legal vocabulary, forms and documentation. A student from such a course is conversant with such mysteries as endowments, transfers and probate, and is able to produce work of value to the firm from the first day. This can be important in stringent times, when few small or medium-sized employers have the resources to train staff. Large firms, on the other hand, may run their own in-house training schemes, and consequently attach little importance to specific qualifications.

One such is the City-based international law firm Freshfields. Gill Bullock, the personnel officer, explains that priority in recruitment is given to personality and fast and accurate technical speeds. Experienced secretaries are first placed in the "float group" of six or seven secretaries serving any department in the firm as necessary. This system not only obviates the need to



A life of variety: Joanne Parker finds her job in a City law firm demands great flexibility

employ temps, but eases new staff gradually into the firm's procedures, so that when a permanent post falls free, the secretaries usually already know the work.

College-leavers, of whom Freshfields recruits five every year, and

who must have A levels and accurate typing near 55 words a minute in addition to their college diplomas, spend six weeks on an internal training scheme. The first two weeks are on the firm's word-processing system, the rest on

induction and company procedures. At the end, trainees are as far as possible placed in the departments of their choice.

© Institute of Paralegal Training, The Mill, Clymping Street, Littlehampton, West Sussex BN17 5RN.

PROFILE

Joanne of all trades

JOANNE Parker, now aged 23, joined Freshfields four years ago as a trainee secretary on leaving the Oxford and County Secretarial College. She has progressed to being a partner's secretary.

She enjoyed the training, which she says was "a good way to cross the barrier between college and work", but in common with the other trainees she detested the morning spelling test. "We were tested on 20 words every day. It was quite tedious but it is essential to be confident with such words as engrossment and subpoena."

Freshfields' secretaries work for two or three lawyers. The system demands great flexibility from them, because they have to put requests in order of priority, and because lawyers may change during the year.

Miss Parker likes the variety this brings, and explains that there is some continuity as the secretary usually remains with the senior member. "After one year here I got Ruth Markland, a partner for the company department, who had just returned from our Hong Kong office. It is interesting work because my duties are varied in working for a partner, a manager [assistant solicitor] and an article clerk [trainee solicitor]."

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Young Hustler can spark Twiston-Davies bonanza

NIGEL Twiston-Davies, who trains with growing success at Naunton, near Cheltenham, can dominate his local course today by landing a four-time winner with Young Hustler, Daga, Gaestrom and Tipping Tim. Such success is nothing new to him. Indeed, Tipping Tim was the first of a successful quartet at Uttoxeter last October, and at Perth last month he again bagged four prizes.

Tipping Tim, who gave stable his first National Hunt Festival victory last March when he won the Ritz Club National Hunt Chase, returns to the scene of his greatest triumph to contest the Standard Life Handicap Chase. Carl Llewellyn, who knows him well, takes the ride.

Although the distance of the Ritz Club Chase was three miles, Tipping Tim showed last season that he is just as effective when racing at today's shorter trip. He will also be much sharper for his recent run at Chepstow, according to his trainer.

The rides on his three stable companions have been en-

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

trusted to Twiston-Davies's neighbour, the champion jockey Peter Scudamore.

Young Hustler, who ended Gaelic Frolic's winning run when scoring at the last Cheltenham meeting, should have the Lydney Novices' Chase at his mercy.

He made all the running and stayed on strongly up the hill that day, so today's longer distance should not pose a problem.

Daga, another who was successful at that meeting, contests the Standard Life Handicap Hurdle with every chance of supplementing that success.

Gaestrom, too, will prove a tough nut to crack in the Chepstow Chase. Everyman Theatre Novices' Hurdle, judging by his victories at Stratford and Chepstow this autumn.

The Martin Pipe-trained Huntworth is capable of win-

ning the Dermot Daly Memorial Trophy despite carrying too weight on his seasonal debut, while Natrix Exchange can remain unbeaten by winning the Rodborough Novices' Hurdle.

At Wetherby, Vain Prince, who was beaten by Native Pride at Cheltenham a fortnight ago after scoring at Huntingdon, is taken to find the winning trial once more by beating Sir Peter Lely in the



Twiston-Davies: high hopes of four winners

Bobby Renton Memorial Chase.

Sacre D'Or, a comfortable winner on his seasonal debut at Uttoxeter earlier this month, can make his fitness bid in the Gordon Post Handicap Chase, while the AVS Gold Blend Novices' Hurdle should go to Mark Tompkins's Newmarket challenger Millador, who won by eight lengths at Market Rasen last time.

On the Flat at Redcar, Sarangan Bay is named to win the EBF Epton Maiden Stakes and indicate a title for the champion jockey-elect Michael Roberts. The three-timer can be completed by Annacurragh.

Last time out, Sarangan Bay, a half-brother to the Irish St Leger winner Mashaallah, was a promising third to Blues Traveller at Newbury.

Brown's, his stable companion, is preferred to Mujazzah and Captain Jack for the EBF Captain Cook Handicap on his good run behind Barabara at Newmarket 13 days ago.

Favourite out of Cesarewitch

BY GEORGE RAE

DARU, the 6-1 ante-post favourite for the Tote Cesarewitch at Newmarket on Saturday, was declared a non-runner yesterday after disappearing in his work.

Trainer Nosed, assistant to trainer John Gosden, said: "Daru will not run. He isn't injured, he simply didn't work satisfactorily this morning. There remains a possibility that he will run again this season."

However, Gosden will still be represented in the Cesarewitch by Specifically, fourth in the Autumn Cup at Newbury last month. Nosed added: "Specificity is well and was always going to run in the race. He will now be ridden by Michael Roberts."

Ray Cochrane, who had been approached to ride Specifically on the assumption that Roberts would be on Daru, is now without a mount.

With Daru's withdrawal, there was intense activity in the betting market. Specifically attracted plenty of interest and is down to 8-1 second favourite (from 16-1) with Corals, who make Cabochon their 7-1 market leader.

Optimism is divided over who should replace Daru as the favourite. Although Corals have opted for Cabochon, Ladbrokes have installed the Irish challenger Vintage Crop

at 5-1 while the Tote have Vintage Crop sharing favouritism with Quick Ransom, the Ebor Handicap winner, at 8-1.

In the Dubai Champion Stakes on the same programme, Lahib has taken over from Rodrigo De Triano as favourite. Corals reported sustained backing for John Dunlop's charge and have cut him from 2-1 to 5-4. Rodrigo De Triano has been eased from 5-4 to 2-1.

Ladbrokes too were inundated with enquiries about Lahib. They now have him at 11-8 (from 2-1) with Rodrigo De Triano on 6-4.

Despite market opposition to the 2,000 Guineas winner, trainer Peter Chapple-Hyam reported yesterday that Rodrigo De Triano had come through a gallop which put him in line for the group one test.

The colt was watched by owner Robert Sangster as he worked for the first time since he threw a splint in his off fore last week. Chapple-Hyam said: "Rodrigo worked well and is on course for Saturday."

Darryll Holland was suspended for four days (October 22-25 inclusive) for excessive use of the whip on Purbeck Centenary, unplaced in the Whitbury Manor Handicap at Chepstow yesterday.

Darnell stakes claim for BHB position

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Darnell, a director of Tessa, explained yesterday why his marketing and negotiating skills make him an ideal candidate for the new authority being set up to run racing in Britain.

Darnell, aged 58 and a keen racegoer, has been nominated by the National Trainers' Federation for the British Horseracing Board (BHB), whose 11 members will be paid £5,000 each.

"The benefits I can bring to the BHB are the skills I have used during my commercial life," he said. "Those skills were instrumental in changing the company when it began to lose its way in the late seventies, turning it into the successful public company it is today."

In Darnell's view, the problems facing racing are not dissimilar to those an ailing retail company must address. The management techniques needed to make such a commercial concern successful were similar to those required for the racing industry today.

The new racing authority had to set out a clear strategy,

be more open and communicative and work out a better deal for its principal customers - racegoers and owners. Too often, racegoers and owners were treated in a "take it or leave it" manner.

He added: "The BHB has a moral responsibility to ensure the industry is well funded and capable of maintaining at least present employment levels."

Few people in racing would disagree with such sentiments but finding further funds for racing will not be easy. Darnell said that in the long term the BHB should take over the Levy Board and the Tote so that racing could control its own finances.

"It is right to ask the bookmakers for a greater contribution. This is where the skill of negotiation will come in," he said.

Nick Robinson has been elected to serve as the second of the racehorse owners' two nominees on the BHB. Robinson will join Peter Jones, president of the Racehorse Owners' Association, on the board.

Lewis lands gamble

GEOFF Lewis, the Epsom trainer, landed a £90,000 gamble when Dare To Dream took the Whisdenheim Selling Stakes at Leicester yesterday.

Lewis backed himself at 40-1 to send out 50 winners this season. He nominated 54 horses before the season started to count toward his total, so Bar Billiards, his recent Ascot scorer, was ineligible.

"I thought it had to come

this week," Lewis said, "but at this time of year you never know."

Lewis, who 12 months ago collected more than £100,000 for having 40 winners, set himself a target of 60 next year. "I can't expect the same for next year, I will probably be lucky to get 40, but I will put the money on for the lads."

His staff will receive £25,000 of this year's winnings.

CHELTHAM

MANDARIN 2.20 Young Hustler. 2.50 Gaestrom. 3.20 Tipping Tim. 4.25 Huntworth. 4.55 Natrix Exchange.

RICHARD EVANS: 2.50 Daga. 3.55 Last 'O' This Bunch.

GOING: GOOD

2.20 LYDNEY NOVICES CHASE (25.400; 3m 1110yd) (6 runners)

101 00-211 YOUNG HUSTLER 15 (C.F.S.) N Twiston-Davies 11-10 P Scudamore 88
102 10-111 CLYDE HURST 15 (C.F.S.) J Duggan 5-11-1 R Supple 87
103 00-222 CYTHRE 15 (C.F.S.) K Duggan 5-11-1 R Supple 87
104 00-222 CYTHRE 15 (C.F.S.) K Duggan 5-11-1 R Supple 87
105 00-222 CYTHRE 15 (C.F.S.) K Duggan 5-11-1 R Supple 87
106 00-222 CYTHRE 15 (C.F.S.) K Duggan 5-11-1 R Supple 87

BETTING: 2.50 Young Hustler. 7-2 Daga. 8-1 Daga. 11-10 Daga. 11-10 Daga. 11-10 Daga.

1991: FAN BROTHER 5-11-10 A Tary 14-5-10 K Bailey 4-11-10

FORM FOCUS

YOUNG HUSTLER last Cheltenham 31st in a 13-runner novice chase at Naunton (2m 110yd, good, DIST.)

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CLYDE HURST last Cheltenham

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6.00 **Canteens** (27356) 5.00 **The Big Breakfast** presented by Cl
Evans and Gabby Roslin (25191)
6.00 **You Say You Love Me** American game show [s] (37612)
3.00 **Schools** (457511)
12.00 **The Stars** Heather Couper looks at supermova (s) (19608)
2.30 **Seaside Street** Early-learning series (60578)
1.30 **Europe's Castles** Music and castles (36530)
2.00 **Great Russian Writers** The life and work of Fyodor Dostoev
(Teletext) (5801)
2.30 **Film: Easy Money** (1948, b/w) starring Jack Warner and Pat
Clark. Comedy drama following the lives of four disparate foot
path gamblers. Directed by Bernard Knowles (4812598)
4.00 **Waiting** Short film about the frustrations suffered by
woman waiting for the results of a job interview (1183648)
4.30 **Fifteen To One** Fast-moving knock-out general knowledge qu
presented by William G. Stewart [s] (598)
5.00 **The Oprah Winfrey Show** The guest is singer Barry Manilow
(16517)
5.55 **The Magic Roundabout** narrated by Nigel Piner (s) (166242)
6.00 **Treasure Hunt** Amelia Rose gushes around the Wilts
countryside looking for hidden treasure (r) (Teletext) (58578)
7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zennab Badawiy. (Telet
Weather (62708)
7.50 **Comment** (110337)
6.00 **Brookside** Suburban Merseyside soap. (Teletext) [s] (2337)
8.30 **Antan Moslemann - Naturally** The master chef demonstrates
bread-making skills (r). (Teletext) (4172)
9.00 **Dispatches**
C-H-E: A report on the international diamond trade
effectively a portrait of de Beers, the South African company which
has controlled the market for 80 years. De Beers was founded in t
last century by the empire builder, Cecil Rhodes. He had the big
idea of keeping prices high by limiting supply. The present day
De Beers keeps prices high by operating a cartel and squeezing o
the market. Current De Beers policy is to restrict supply, because if pro
elf diamonds would lose their exclusive image. But the de Be
system is coming under threat from illicit mining in Angola and fr
the Soviet Union, which in terms of value is the world's biggest
diamond producer. The programme offers an intriguing glimpse
into a normally closed world, revealing among other things ho
De Beers plans to support the cartel by excluding diamonds from
trade routes (39)



Taken hostage: Bonnie Bedella and Bruce Willis (9.00pm)

9.00 **Film: Die Hard** (1988) starring Bruce Willis, Alan Rickman and Bonnie Bedelia. Exciting action thriller about a New York policeman visiting his estranged wife in Los Angeles when the building where she works is taken over by terrorists who hold him, his wife and her colleagues hostage. Directed by John McTiernan. Continues after the news (5375)

10.00 **News at Ten** with Alistair Stewart and Carol Barnes. (Oracle Weather (91795) 10.30 **Thames News** (31397)

10.40 **Film: Die Hard** continued (2030545)

12.05AM **Hollywood Report**. Showbusiness gossip (1783738)

12.35 **Film: A New Kind of Love** (1963) starring Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward. A story of a war-widow's love affair with a doctor and a fashion buyer who meet and fall in love in Paris. Directed by Melville Shavelson (2142702)

2.45 **America's Top Ten** introduced by Richard Bils (s) (31844)

3.15 **VideoFash** (53918554)

3.40 **Quiz Night**. Inter pub and club competition (44243370)

4.10 **Grand Ole Opry**. Country and western music from Nashville. Tennessee (s) (2448304)

4.45 **Fifty Years On** (dw). Vintage newspapers (22197028)

5.00 **Three's Company**. American comedy series (19252)

5.30 **ITN Morning News** with Phil Roman (50399). Ends at 6.00



Stringless quartet: the Florida matrons are back (10.00pm)

10.00 The Golden Girls. The first of a new series of the comedy about the four Miami matrons. (Teletext) (s) 993377

10.30 Pecking Them In. Variety series presented by Jenny Eclair, Fran Stinner, Roger Mann and Kevin Eldon. The guests include stand-up comedians Bob Mortimer and the Royal Incometense. (Teletext) (s) 983719/11.15 The Prisoner. Classic drama series from the 1960s starring Patrick McGoohan (H). (Teletext) (983578)

12.20am The Steve Allen Show. The guests are Phil Harris and Ginger Rogers (9813467)

12.45 The Best of the Worst. More embarrassing moments from American television, including William Shatner singing the old Beatles song "Let It Be" in the Sky with Diamonds (925952)

1.15 Films: Andras. (1949, b/w) starring Dilip Kumar, Raj Kapoor and Nargis. Hindi drama of a tragic love triangle. Directed by Mehboob Khan (9568841). Ends at 3.50

VideoShare and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. These allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoShare™ handset. VideoShare can be used with most videos. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you want to watch on your video. (983712) (b) (s) (c) 1994. Charged at 48p per minute plus, 36p off-peak or write to VideoShare, Acorn Ltd, 5 Jolly House, Ramston Wharf, London SW11 3TN. VideoShare™, PlusCode™ and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Marketing Ltd.

Video View (9041825) 2.55 Film: Despair (1988-1991) 1.05-2.30. **Interlock** (2501728)

[illegible]

RADIO 3

RADIO 4

<p>Stereo on FM 5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News: 6.00 6.05 6.10 Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Presley for the Day 6.30 Today, and 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.45 Weather 6.55, 5.55 Sports Weather 7.25, 5.35 News 7.45 Thought for the Day 7.45 On the Five Frontier: The War, A selection of letters by Evelyn Waugh written to his family and friends (3.15) 6.45 Weather</p>	<p>Ling has faithfully dramatised this tale of a hanging that looks like a suicide. Ling plays the victim with all demurest spots out (x) 2.07 Treasure Islands (P) 3.00 News 3.62 Profile: As Canadians prepare to vote in a referendum on the self-government of the aboriginal people, Margaret Horsfield meets Wendy Grant, an outspoken Indian chief. 4.00 News 4.05 Microscope reviews the week's film releases, including <i>Stray Ballroom</i> and <i>Michael</i> <i>Apollon's Thundershot</i> (x) 4.45 Ship's Story: The Captain with the <i>Knott</i> in <i>La</i>, Steven McKagay, Read by Jane Whitaker 5.00 PM 5.30 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 News 7.05 7.00 Round Britain Out: The Archers (x) 7.20 Face the Facts: John Watts Investigates 7.45 Life in the Mind (P) 8.15 Anthony Hopkins Talking about <i>Muscle</i>, <i>Perry</i> the <i>Shipwright</i> (6/7) (x) 8.45 Ship's Story: The Captain <i>you're Fired</i>... "Peter Day meets the workers who are able to evaluate their bosses" 9.15 Microscope 9.45 The Financial World Tonight (x) 9.50 Weather 10.00 The Nightlight (x) 10.45 A Bank at Bedtime: O Celestial: <i>Hannah Gordon</i> meets <i>Enoch Barron's</i> first novel. First of eight stories adapted by <i>Yvonne Annet</i> 11.00 Colin Pinck: Christopher <i>Matthew evokes Now</i> which, like the editorials of <i>David</i> <i>Hackitt</i>, earned a reputation as the magazine of the 1950s. With <i>Nicky Parker</i>, <i>John</i> <i>Hackitt</i> and <i>Bridget</i> <i>Keenan</i> (x) 11.30 Howl: Chairman <i>Tim</i> <i>Brooke-Jones</i> and <i>Barry Cryer</i>, <i>Peter Jones</i> or <i>Christopher Timothy</i> is telling the tallest story (x) 12.00 News 12.05 12.27 Weather 12.35 Shipping 12.45 As The Ship (LW only)</p>
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SEQUENCES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/2285m; 1089kHz/275m; FM-87.5-89.8
Radio 2: FM-88-90.2; Radio 3: FM-90.2-92.4; Radio 4: FM-92.4-1515m;
Radio 5: FM-144.5-1.6; Radio 6: 88.8kHz/2285m; 89.9kHz/2285m; FM 88.8-90.2
Radio 7: 1053kHz/2285m; 1089kHz/275m; FM 88.8-90.2; FM 88.8-90.2

1.15am **Child's Play 2** (1990): The murder of doll company owner Alex Vickers (224 3700).

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10.10 Dartman (1990) Skin specialist Liem

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(FM only) 5.00 Mark Goodier 9.00 Simon Bates 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Jaido Bram-Noble James's Music Hls 5.30 News 5.57 7.00

RADIO 2
James's Evening Show 10.00-12.00 The Man Estate Survivors Show 6.15 Philip Campbell leads us into the Night 12.00-12.05am Noddy Home (P) 1001
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Today 7.30 Programmes in French 7.59 Weather 8.00
News 8.08 Words of Faith 9.15 Encounters with the
10.00 News 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Country Style

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Touring Cars (51-43) 9.30 German Formula 3 (258917) 9.45 Major League Baseball (51-42) 11.45 **Car Pool** (258920) 12.00

Life and the Astral satellite
 09:15 Swiss Army (01513) 8.30 Tennis
 09:55(13) 11.30 Step Aerobics (25443) 12.00
 Aerobics (44288) 1.00pm Football
 Eurogolf (20608) 2.00 Traction (77004)
 3.00 Tennis (6655056) 5.00 Basketball
 (335559) 8.30 Football: France vs Austria
 (05784820) 11.45 European News (572620)
 12.00 German Rally (31202) 12.30-1.00am
 Eurosport News (93554)

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 (6/25/80) 10.30 Women's Pro Beach Volleyball
 (6/11/77) 11.00 World PGA European Tour
 1992 (6/7/14) 12.00 Long Distance Trails
 1992 (6/15/13) 12.30pm NFL 1992 (5/9/80) 2.30
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 (6/1/14) 6.30 Powerports (5/30/04) 7.30 Thai
 Fight Box (6/8/01) 8.30 DTM - German

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CNN INTERNATIONAL

● Via the Astra satellite
 Twenty-four hour news bulletins

Smiling through.

He now has a powered wheelchair.

Without it, he can't move around. Tony has Duchenne muscular dystrophy, an incurable muscle wasting condition. His disability doesn't stop him enjoying life to

than ever before.

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It's simply a question of time. And time equals money. Help us keep the smile on Tony's face. With your help we can find the cure.

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Schofield to lead
Great Britain
in final

SPORT

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14 1992

Taylor looks to Adams to contain Norway's attack

England put Gascoigne back on centre stage

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

PAUL Gascoigne is to start rebuilding his international career at Wembley tonight at the beginning of England's journey towards the World Cup finals in the United States in 1994.

Graham Taylor, the England manager, has seen enough evidence to convince him that Gascoigne, the country's most celebrated and gifted footballer, should start the opening qualifying tie against Norway.

Gascoigne is unlikely to last the whole game, but he is bound to be its centrepiece as long as he is there. He has been the focal point of the prolonged build-up to his reappearance is based on public demand as much as on Taylor's more dispassionate judgment.

In fact, Gascoigne's inclusion has already started a scramble for tickets. A Wembley spokesman said: "Every-one wants to see Gazza. His inclusion in the team has generated a tremendous

amount of excitement. Sales have really taken off."

The danger is that Gascoigne will be seen as a knight in shining armour, a one-man cavalry to restore England's diminishing reputation. Much, perhaps too much, will be expected of him after an absence of 17 months.

He left when England were still wallowing in the glory of a place in the World Cup semi-finals, for which he had primarily been responsible. He comes back, after two ghastly knee wounds and a £5.5 million move from Tottenham Hotspur to Lazio, into a side which has had only two wins in nine matches and requires fresh stimulation.

It would be characteristic of him to light the necessary spark. He relishes big occasions and there could scarcely be a more poignant setting. It was at Wembley, where he imperilled his own future during last year's FA Cup final against Nottingham Forest, that his nightmare began.

Rather than reflecting on his costly rashness and the psychological damage it may have caused, Gascoigne prefers to look ahead to the challenge at hand. "That was the FA Cup final," he said yesterday. "This is the biggest thing in the world. It is everybody's dream to play in the World Cup finals."

As they take the first tentative step towards the United States, England are to line up in the same way they completed the 1966 tournament. Like Alf Ramsey, Taylor has chosen to dispense with wingers but there is otherwise no similarity between the two eras.

Whereas Ramsey was able confidently to predict the ultimate triumph which earned him a knighthood and his players such fame, it is anybody's guess as to how Taylor's team will fare. The backbone

TEAMS

ENGLAND: C. Woods (Sheff Wed), L. Dixon (Aston), S. Pearce (Nottingham Forest), D. Batty (Leeds United), D. Walker (Sunderland), A. Adams (Aston), D. Platt (Aston), P. Gascoigne (Lazio), A. Shearer (Blackburn Rovers), I. Wright (Aston), P. Jones (Manchester United).

NORWAY: E. Thorstvedt (Tottenham Hotspur), R. Nilsen (Middlesbrough), R. Bratseth (Wolverhampton), S. I. Skjerve (Preston), K. Ingvaldsen (Preston), E. Mykland (Sheff), K. Rakelid (Luton), G. Helle (Oxford United), J. Jacobsen (Young Boys).

— formed by Tony Adams, David Batty, Gascoigne and Ian Wright in central roles — is covered in rust.

Whereas Ramsey consistently followed a pattern designed to suit the best players, Taylor is using it without three central defenders for the first time in 26 internationals, and principally to accommodate one individual. If the midfield platform was not so solid, the inclusion of Gascoigne would have been too foolhardy a gamble.

It is still a risk, especially in an area which will be populated by five Norwegians. Unless Ince and Platt tirelessly cover the ground in between each penalty area and Dixon and Pearce move up on either flank, England could be as overrun in midfield as they were in Spain last month.

Yet greater fears lie at the front and, particularly, at the back. There can be no guarantee that Shearer and Wright, though prolific for their clubs, will combine effectively but, given the circumstances, the choice of attack is at least based on logic.

In spite of Taylor's claims, the same cannot be said of his decision to bring back Adams, another missing for 17 months, to partner Walker. When asked to express the

qualities of the Arsenal captain, England's manager could only reply: "Under duress."

Adams's spirit has never been in question but his inadequacy as an international defender was exposed long ago. Taylor, having previously chosen him specifically only to contain Niall Quinn in the European championship qualifying ties against Ireland, now suggests that "he can make the No. 6 shirt his own".

The statement appears to be another example of Taylor's erratic policy. Although his plans are invariably disrupted, there continues to be little consistency of either selection or formation and it seemed appropriate that, before he opened yesterday's press conference, he asked if the lights in the room could be switched on.

England trust that Gascoigne will illuminate the darkness, as he did so memorably for Tottenham in their FA Cup semi-final against Arsenal in the same stadium, and enable them to find cohesion.

Norway are already established as a unit and they believe in the settled system that has lifted them to the top of the group. They have collected maximum points from their three ties and accumulated a goal difference of 14-1. With notable assets such as Mykland, an impish mid-field player as Gascoigne, and Bratseth, their commanding defensive leader, they are developing into the strongest football nation in Scandinavia.

Ominously, similar claims were being made on behalf of Denmark nine years ago. With a solitary goal at Wembley, they effectively put Bobby Robson's side out of contention for the European championship finals in 1984.



Two dimensions: Thorstvedt, left, and Jakobsen at Norway's training yesterday

Ireland's predicament favours Moran

FROM CLIVE WHITE
IN COPENHAGEN

IT WAS time for Jack Charlton to put past differences aside yesterday when, in the absence of Paul McGrath, he recognised the need to recall Kevin Moran, at the ripe old age of 36, to his Republic of Ireland defence.

There will be no substitute for experience in the new Parken stadium here tonight when a capacity crowd of 39,000 will demand that Denmark, the European champions, start playing as such in this World Cup group three qualifying match.

Moran, the Blackburn Rovers captain, who will be winning his 64th cap, has not even figured in an Irish squad since an incident at the end of the quadrangular tournament in the United States in June. Moran, along with several other players, reported back late to the team's hotel on the day of departure after playing golf and then lingering at the 19th hole.

Apparently, Charlton has

decided to forgive and forget, as well he might, because the group three leaders face a Denmark team bent on proving that their success in Sweden this summer was not just a flash in the pan. Subsequent goalless draws against Latvia and Lithuania have provided the critics of Richard Möller Nielsen, the coach, with the ammunition for guns that were being cocked before Sweden. And Graham Taylor thinks that his criticism is unfounded.

Möller Nielsen, who has been able to fall out with the likes of Michael Laudrup and Jan Mølby over tactics and still succeed, is a man very much after Charlton's heart. "Ireland play the kind of football I like direct," he said. "They are the only British team who are playing to British strengths and I think they are one of the best in Europe."

"Quinn and Aldridge are a very good pair, and the midfield, with people like Townsend, is one of the best in Europe."

Such buttering up could

only have come from a team sponsored by Lutpak. Charlton will not be fooled.

The observations of Brian Laudrup (the player whom the Irish manager most fears) on the character of Danish football and its recent failings may hold greater relevance for Charlton.

"Unlike in Sweden, where all the other teams carried the game to us, we have now had to make the play," he said. "Not even the great Danish team of ten years ago could do that. We have always been very good at defending and then breaking out with, say, seven players. Against Ireland, I think it will be a little easier because they will try to score."

Without Ståurton and possibly Shendy (the faces a late fitness test) to provide an accurate service from the left flank, the Irish could be in for a rude awakening from their American dream.

DENMARK (probable): P. Schmeichel (Manchester United), J. Stenmark (Preston), L. Christensen (Luton), T. P. Nielsen (Aston).

IRELAND (probable): P. B. Quinn (Blackburn), K. Moran (Blackburn), J. M. Quinn (Blackburn), J. M. Quinn (Blackburn), J. M. Quinn (Blackburn).

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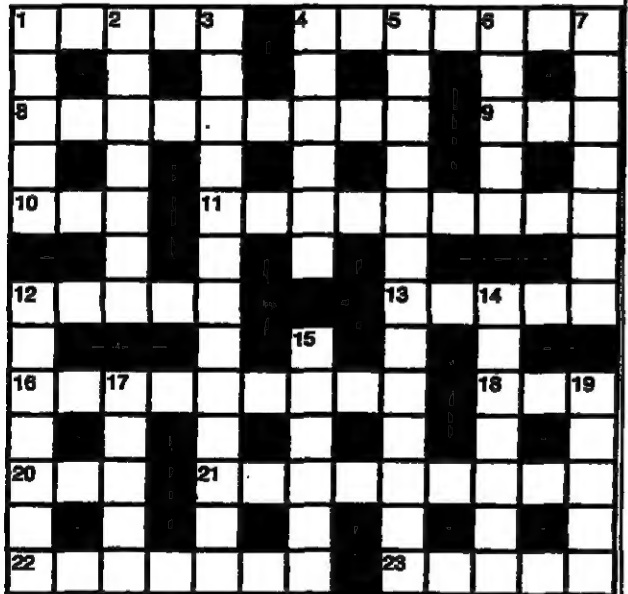
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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2918



- ACROSS
1. Eagerly accept (3,2)
 4. Opportunistic answers (7)
 6. Wormlike (9)
 8. Obstacle (3)
 10. Perish (3)
 11. Not on axis (3,6)
 12. Cubic declaimers (5)
 13. Slang (5)
 14. Lobby (9)
 15. Possess (3)
 16. Spanish river (3)
 21. Unembellished (9)
 22. Thus (7)
 23. Vacant (5)
- DOWN
1. Cherished (5)
 2. Debauchee (7)
 3. First son's succession (1,3)
 4. Trial printouts (6)
 5. Non polar, tropical area (9,4)
 6. Custom (5)
 7. Cascade (7)
 8. Young hare (7)
 14. Measure (5,2)
 15. Very sweet (6)
 17. Push (5)
 19. Big ears' friend (5)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2917

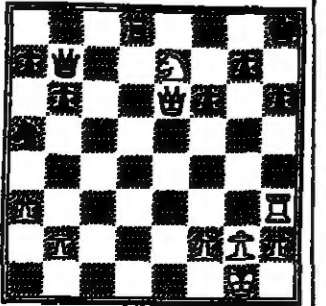
ACROSS: 1 Victim 5 Tramps 8 Stag 9 Unhidden 10 Closet 12 Ooze 15 Vestition blind 16 Star 17 Unmade 19 Shredder 21 Mood 22 Needle 23 Delude

DOWN: 2 Intellect 3 Teg 4 Mountain 5 Tube 6 Androdes 7 Poe 11 Spearhead 13 Sangroid 14 Enquired 18 Idle 20 Hoe 21 Mill

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is a possible variation from Spielman Levitt, Loydie Bank 1992. White can force checkmate in four moves. How does he do it?

Solution below.



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